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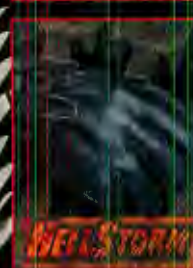
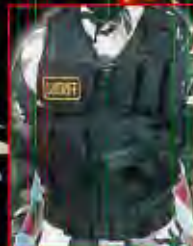
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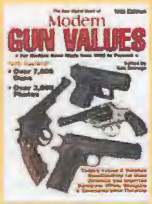
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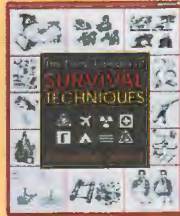
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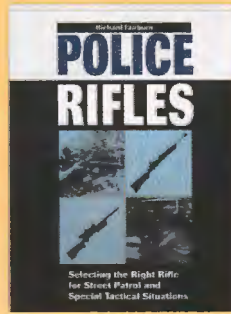
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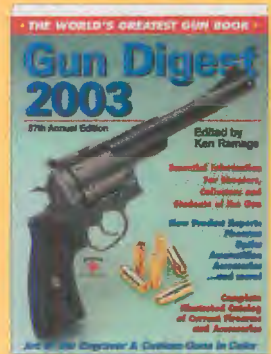
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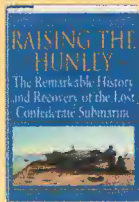
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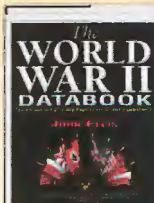
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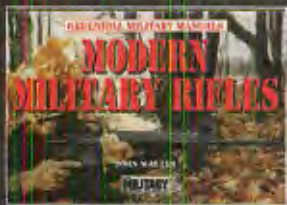
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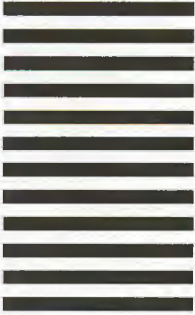
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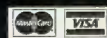


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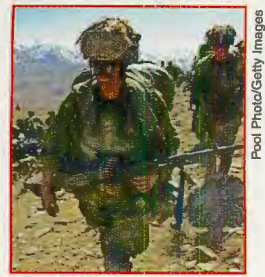
<b>AMERICAN SNIPER IN ISRAEL</b> by David Stone Increased use of intelligence and pinpoint raids into Palestinian Authority-controlled areas are decreasing the number of suicide bombings. But, during May, several terrorists managed to get lucky. _____	16
<b>TOUGH TIMES</b> by Jeff Cooper Modernized and thought-provoking historical wisdom from "Chairman" Jeff relating to the silliness — and horror — of radical Moslem society's religious belligerence against the West. _____	32
<b>BOLT-ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS, Part II</b> by Rob Krott Return to Afghanistan with some of Canada's finest snipers as they "keep clearing" and score hits — one being a record 2,400-meter confirmed kill! _____	36
<b>GOING IN</b> by Lance Bacon A gutsy and costly attempted air rescue inside Afghanistan as al-Qaeda and Taliban holdouts pin-down American ground elements and seek to neutralize close-air support. _____	40
<b>THE WOUND THAT WON'T STOP BLEEDING</b> by Major Bruce H. "Doc" Norton, USMC (Ret.) With all the creative fiction seeping north from Colombia, it's a blessing to have on-station Georgia Congressman Bob Barr to keep our politicians straight and our military efficient. _____	48

### FEATURES

<b>BRAVO TWO ZERO</b> Reviewed by Dana Drenkowski This authentic movie's account (based upon former SAS operator Andy McNab's book of the same title) outshines most Hollywood combat flicks by a light year. _____	46
<b>SNIPER IN THE SUDAN</b> by Mike Everyman New Sudan isn't yet a solid bastion of freedom, but it does survive in independence from Islamic Sudan, a former haunt of Osama bin Laden, and present-day lair of the blood-crazed National Islamic Front. _____	52
<b>THE MODERN SCOURGE OF SEX SLAVERY, Part III</b> by Dr. Martin Brass Though all deny knowledge or involvement, the hideously degenerate underground-trafficking in children is alive and prospering among some of our most-favored Mid-East allies. _____	56
<b>UNDER REVIEW, Part III</b> by J.D. Cash A few very corrupt agents have managed to defame, and defuse, the FBI. These few — along with several other feds — sabotaged the Oklahoma City bombing investigation, botched their "big sting" and the chance to dispense justice. _____	66
<b>SUREFIRE SNIPER COURSE</b> by Odin Crowe Want to learn to take back the night in low-light conflict resolution using the gamut of state-of-the-art tools? Then SureFire's got the curricula for you. _____	70
<b>SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S NEW M1 GARAND</b> by Gary Paul Johnston This new, but traditional, beauty sports cleaner lines — and is MilSpec from muzzle to butt! _____	74

### COLUMNS

<b>COMMAND GUIDANCE</b> _____	6
<b>BULLETIN BOARD</b> _____	8
<b>FLAK</b> _____	20
<b>ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER</b> _____	26
<b>SOF PROVING GROUND</b> Custom .45 ... On A Budget _____	28
<b>SOUND OFF</b> by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.) _____	82



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#### On the Cover

Soldiers from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry battalion go to their positions, 15 March 2002, during a combat mission in the rugged Shah-i-Kot mountains, 25 km (15 miles) south-east of Gardez, Afghanistan. See story on page 40



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Supply Depot	60
Classifieds	62
Advertisers' Index	65



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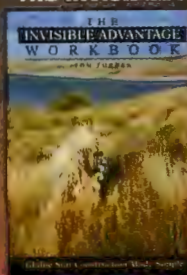
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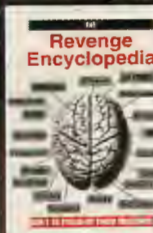
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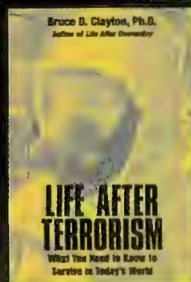
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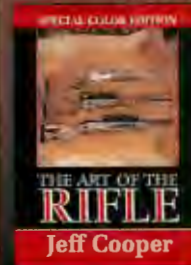
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# Command Guidance

## Sensenbrenner to Cops: DROP DEAD

You may never have heard of Ahmed Sattar and chances are neither has Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R.-Wisconsin). But if you're a cop, this is a name you ought to know. That's because Mr. Sattar, a Staten Island mailman, was just arrested as an accomplice of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. The feds say Sattar used his post office job to compile the home addresses of federal officers investigating the Sheik's terrorist network. Aligned with al-Qaeda, this is the gang responsible for the World Trade Center bomb job in 1993, eight years before bin Laden's crew landed the knockout punch. Sheik Rahman is behind bars but terrorist minions, like Satta, are likely still out there — making a target of the law-enforcement officers assigned to track them down.

Scary thought, isn't it? Bin Laden and his pals gunning for American cops — and their families. That's one reason why at least 252 members of Congress — and the White House — want to pass H.R. 218, "the Community Protection Act." This legislation makes it legal for qualified cops — on- and off-duty, active and retired — to carry concealed firearms anywhere in the U.S. Right now, cops are subject to a morass of local ordinances that makes it almost impossible to know when they're inside the law when they carry their firearms across jurisdictions. Result: Many cops simply leave their firearms at home.

But H.R. 218 is about more than just protecting cops and their families against terrorists and criminals. Of America's nearly 700,000 law-enforcement personnel, only about 25% are on duty at any given time. H.R. 218 will enable qualified off-duty — and even retired — cops to prevent crimes-in-progress against ordinary citizens.

Now, I mention the "Honorable" Mr. Sensenbrenner because he has decided to oppose H.R. 218. In fact, as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, he has refused to schedule a vote and is blocking any hearings.

Despite broad bi-partisan support and a nod from the White House, Sensenbrenner has decided to dig in his heels. He's got H.R. 218 stopped in its tracks.

Why is he so opposed? His answer seems to depend on which day of the week he's asked, but usually he talks about not wanting to violate "states rights." (Funny, he never expressed any concern about trampling states rights when he voted for the Brady Bill back in '94.) Off the record, Capitol Hill insiders say he's a stubborn s.o.b. and likes the "maverick" label à la John McCain. He call himself "conservative" but many feel he displays a not-too-subtle anti-cop bias. As a multi-millionaire (in fact, one of the richest men in Congress), it's a pretty sure bet he's never looked down the wrong end of a muzzle. He's rich and his Congressional seat is probably safe for as long as he wants it. So, unless the political heat gets a lot more intense than it is now, chances are he's not going to budge.

H.R. 218, conceived by our tough-as-nails friends at the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, introduced by Randy ("Duke") Cunningham (R.-California) and called the number-one legislative priority of the Fraternal Order of Police is, quite simply, a no-brainer. It SHOULD pass — and the sooner the better. Can you think of a better way to put almost one-and-a-half million trained guns on the street — at zero cost to the taxpayer? I can't. (I also can't think of a better first step promoting uniform national concealed-carry for all qualified American citizens.)

If you think cops ought to have the right to defend themselves now is the time to give Mr. Sensenbrenner a piece of your mind. Call his Capitol Hill office at 202-224-3121; or E-Mail him at [sensen09@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensen09@mail.house.gov).

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ADVERTISING DIRECTOR **Tom Chambers**

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SOF WEBSITE: [www.sofmag.com](http://www.sofmag.com)

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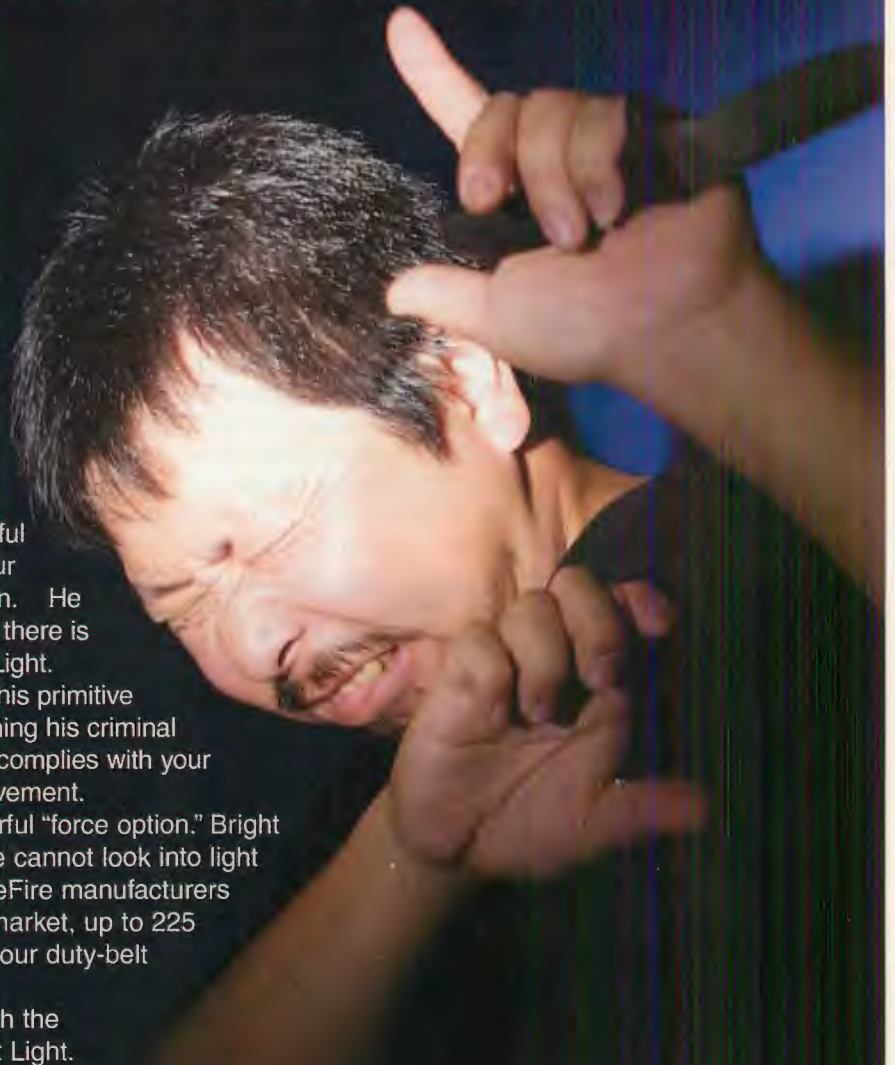


# STARTLING NUMBERS OF SUSPECTS REPORT SEEING A BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHT DURING NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES.

**S**earing bright light from your SureFire Combat Light® carves the darkness, temporarily blinding a suspect. He can't stab what he can't see. Helplessly disoriented by the powerful beam, he hears only the bark of your strong command to drop his weapon. He tries to turn away from the light, but there is no hiding from a SureFire Combat Light. Blinded, a grim realization reaches his primitive brain, a survival imperative overcoming his criminal inclinations—he is about to die. He complies with your orders, his knife clattering to the pavement.

A SureFire flashlight is a powerful "force option." Bright light is disorienting. The human eye cannot look into light this bright; it closes reflexively. SureFire manufactures the brightest tactical lights on the market, up to 225 lumens of blinding white light from our duty-belt compatible M3 Combat Light.

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# Bulletin Board

## SOF Loses One Of The "Good Guys"

Mike McPike, a longtime friend of the SOF staff, recently passed away at his home in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. He was 63. A former resident of California, Mike stopped by our offices for the first time in 1983 with several boxes of medical supplies in-hand for Refugee Relief International's Central American projects. When Martin-Marietta transferred him to their Colorado facility, he was a frequent and welcome visitor at our Boulder headquarters, as well as a generous contributor to various SOF-related causes. Of late, Mike headed-up Global Adventures, which arranged safari tours, and was actively promoting the establishment of anti-poaching assis-



tance for Africa. In this photo taken in the SOF warehouse during his first visit, McPike (right) is delivering medical supplies to staffer and then-President of RRII Tom Reisinger. Funeral services were attended by Robert K. Brown, Editor/Publisher of SOF, and Col. Alex McColl, USA (Ret.). As McColl stated, "Mike McPike was most certainly one of the good guys." He is missed.

because the U.S. agencies rejected a request by the group "Humane Borders" to place brightly marked water tanks in the refuge, they knowingly denied life-saving water to "immigrants" they knew were crossing in that area. The refuge already has several year-round water holes that are marked by towers, and refuge rules prohibit any motorized traffic, including Border Patrol vehicles, from entering the area.

Due to increased security at other popular crossing points such as Nogales and Douglas, Arizona, would-be illegals and the smugglers who take their money have been crossing in more remote areas. This has led to numerous deaths when the smugglers abandon their charges in such areas without direction or sufficient water. The actual smuggler responsible for abandoning the illegal crossers in this instance, is currently serving a 16-year sentence in Mexico for manslaughter. Unlike the United States, Mexico has no provision stating that people leaving Mexico must depart through a recognized port of entry, and as such makes no effort to stop northbound traffic in out-of-the-way places. — Jim Bartlett

## Defense Boycott Triggered By Violence

Various European nations have imposed or discussed boycotts against Israeli defense manufacturers, in reaction to Israeli military operations in the West Bank. Norway has suspended defense procurement, and Council of Europe parliamentarians meeting in Strasbourg, France called for an arms embargo and to rescind the EU's free-trade association agreement with Israel. Israeli defense contractors sold some \$300 million worth of military hardware to EU nations in 2001, including perimeter intrusion detection systems, air-to-air missiles, pilot-training devices, aircraft targeting systems, unmanned aerial vehicles and anti-tank missiles produced under license.

## More Smuggler's Tunnels Discovered

A 300-yard tunnel under the U.S. border with Mexico, complete with rail system, electric lighting and ventilation, was uncovered in a ranch house near Tecate, Mexico. It is the sixth tunnel to be uncovered since December. Used primarily by drug runners, the tunnels have proven an excellent way to bypass fences and the U.S. Border Patrol. In April, one was uncovered in a parking lot near the U.S. Customs house in Nogales, Arizona.

Because they usually emerge on the north side of the fence in homes or warehouses, the Border Patrol is hard pressed to detect or interdict such facilities and some, including the

*Continued on page 12*

## Alien Families Sue USG Over Desert Deaths

For the "negligent act" of failing to install water stations to aid illegal border crossers in the remote Cabanza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in western Arizona, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service are being sued for more than \$33 million. The lawsuit stems from the deaths of 14 illegals who, after being abandoned by their "coyote" alien smuggler, died in the remote desert known as "Devil's Path" in June of last year. Temperatures in that region routinely reach 130 degrees during the summer.

At \$3.75 million per death, the incident could prove to be the most expensive alien incident in U.S. history. James Metcalf, attorney for the families of the dead, claims that



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# “I’ll Pay You \$10 If You Don’t Agree This Vicious New AMERICAN COMBAT KARATE Can Transform You Overnight Into A Mega-Dangerous Fighter!”

Take the world’s best streetfighters (almost all of them Americans)... combine with the most feared spec op soldiers (ALL of them American)... mix in some good old U.S.A.-style boxing, a little grappling, and a LOT of dirty tricks... then filter it all through the most RESPECTED American combat veteran to ever train civilians... and you’ve got a brutal, lethal and *unbelievably effective* fighting system that will *change your life literally overnight!* Just one short hour with this genuine combat hero will prove it... or we’ll pay you \$10

By Bob Pierce

President, Threat Response Solutions

(Dateline Visalia, CA) This is advance notice on something that is gonna rip the martial arts world a new one. I can’t believe we got such a famous American war-hero to reveal this dangerous stuff.

It’s just killer fighting information.

**Here’s the details:** As you know, Dale Comstock is one of the most unique Spec Op soldiers in U.S. military history. He’s been in 8 major (and very bloody) combat missions... and I’m told that’s 7 more than almost 99% of the rest of the Spec Op world.

Dale has moved from the paratroopers, to Delta Force, to the Green Berets – anywhere he could guarantee being in...

## The “First In” Combat Unit During Every Recent “Hot Duty” Hostile Action!

Did you see this guy’s war record? Desert Storm, Grenada, secret missions in Africa, Central America, the Middle East. Master sergeant in multiple bad-ass units. Earned the Bronze Star, with that special “V” for valor (which translates to heroism under combat conditions). I lost count after reading about another dozen high-profile medals and combat awards. This guy has been in the **shit**.

That story about leading long-range “deep” reconnaissance scouts 30 clicks behind enemy lines in Grenada... and those “A” Team Spec Op guerilla missions in Africa. I mean... wow! I can’t believe

Hollywood hasn’t grabbed his story yet.

**THIS is the guy I want to train with.**

Twenty-eight years mastery in different styles of hand-to-hand (including shoot fighting, boxing, karate, kick boxing, and all those years learning “speed-grappling” with the Gracies...). He’s been in **over 211 street fights**, plus a dozen professional boxing matches as a 164-pound “light middle weight”... as a hobby.

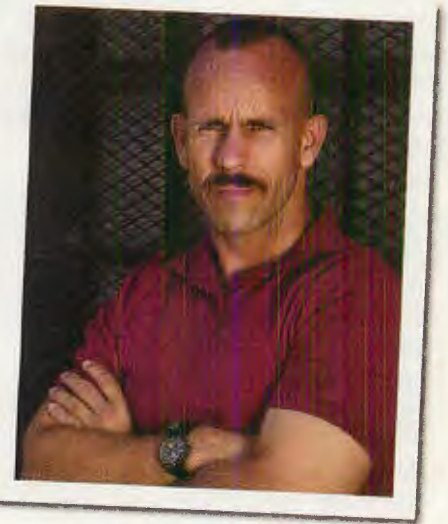
Dale puts his face where his mouth is, that’s for sure. (How about that huge jerk with 8 black belts Dale pummeled a while ago? That ought to prove once and for all those fancy dojo talents aren’t worth a thing against this kind of simple street-combat savvy. I hear Mr. 8 Black Belts is still in shock, still recovering from the beating.)

I love what Dale calls this new style, too...

## “American Combat Karate!”

This “instant domination” training really fits with the way Americans think. A little boxing, a little grappling, lots of pure streetfighting smarts... and the simplest “menu” of end-the-fight-fast moves I’ve ever seen.

He’s taught over 700 students under secretive conditions, including tons of women and kids. That’s great. **Proves** you don’t need strength or size to master this stuff. And the SWAT and military guys he trains come back to thank him,



*“American Combat Karate”, a hot new hand-to-hand fighting system is finally revealed to you by the highly respected and decorated spec op soldier Dale Comstock. With his simple and highly effective system, (the same one taught to Delta Forces) you will know more about fighting and winning than 99% of anyone on the streets today!*

tears in their eyes, for saving their lives with his teachings.

And you learn it all so FAST. It’s all about leverage, which is simple to learn. I am a changed man after just one viewing of his training tape. That’s all it took. This is perfect – and extremely nasty – training for anyone who isn’t big... doesn’t have much time (all you need, really, is an hour or so to “get” it)... and needs to be 100% positive these moves will work in the real world.

It’s like this secret “short cut” to becoming a truly dangerous fighter. Using



only a few proven moves that have been tested, over and over, in real life-threatening combat.

American Combat Karate. That explains it, all right. Did you know most really good pro boxers cannot even bench-press their own weight? They don't need to be strong – because great punches come from your feet and the torque in your waist.

That's how Dale has trained...

### Women And Kids To Slaughter Bigger Men In Just One Or Two Seconds!

I think this is the best – and certainly the simplest — training we've ever produced. I mean, God, you can learn devastating moves that will make you invulnerable against a larger opponent... and learn them in just a **short afternoon** of watching Dale's training tapes. Look, the entire package is a lot longer, but the meat of what you'll learn... the stuff that's really going to make you a truly dangerous fighter... will only take you about ONE HOUR to learn.

During that one intensive hour, Dale's going to teach you:

- The *exact* "condensed fundamentals" that Delta Force soldiers demand before **facing combat**. "Condensed" means there are NO complex moves, NO boring practice required... yet it's still the most *lethally dangerous* skills a fighter can know.
- How to throw a devastating punch just like a top-ranked American boxer... which will instantly stun anyone who thought you were "easy pickings".
- A complete target map of the body's "pain-rich" centers that allows you to take down an opponent **twice your size, weight and strength**.
- How to instantly humiliate anyone who dares put his hands around your neck. This single **amazingly simple** move will have you quickly behind your opponent and suddenly able to dominate him with ease.
- The unique "collar choke" that gives you the power to knock anyone out cold in *seconds*.
- A multitude of other simple but devastating choke holds invented by combat soldiers to stop any attacker in his tracks -- *instantly*.
- The secret **combat punch**, more devastating than a sledge hammer.
- An **incredibly simple** "roll-out" release that will have you out of the dreaded

## Listen to what men who know are saying about Dale Comstock:

"Dale Comstock has vastly simplified the teaching of combat martial arts. He has broken it down into its basic physiological aspects which makes it **very easy to learn and remember.**"

– *Darrell Hackler, Chief Instructor  
CQC John F. Kennedy Special  
Warfare School*

"I found Dale's instruction in the combat arts to be different from *anything* I had been previously exposed to. This is a **practical, easy-to-learn** self-defense system that anyone can quickly absorb and use."

– *Eric Wilson  
Owner- Global Security  
Consultants Inc. Tampa, FL*

"Dale possesses the highest level of all-around combat skills of anybody I have ever met. His teaching style is **easy** and methodical, with none of the arrogance I've encountered with other so-called 'professional' trainers. Dale Comstock has combined the absolute best of many martial disciplines into one **very practical, easy-to-learn fighting system.**

What Dale can show you will give you the **confidence** to defend yourself appropriately in ANY threatening street situation."

– *James Finiello  
U.S. Army - Ft. Bragg*

front head-lock (where every street fight ends up at some point), in seconds. This handy little trick will get you on-top and in control every time.

- **Instant release techniques** that will force your opponent to his knees... blinded with pain... no matter what kind of ironclad grip he *thinks* he has.
- How a *light touch* on the right spot will break even a huge man's jaw like a piece of peanut brittle.
- Multiple "dirty tricks" that allow you take quick advantage of the **biggest mistake** most thugs make when "bear-hugging" you from behind.
- Astonishingly effective submission moves that Spec Op soldiers use in combat when there's NO help around.
- And *tons* more!

I was thinking of marketing this video package for \$129. It's worth it, that's for sure. But in light of what's going on in America and around the world today, I won't sit on this to make a buck. No. I just want to get this out to good Americans everywhere by...

### Giving the BEST DEAL possible to guys who really need this!

So here's the deal:

- ✓ I want you to have the entire package, shipped out today, for **just \$69**.
- ✓ Take 9 months to decide if you really want this or not. *No...* make that a full year! All you have to do is return the hand-to-hand tape for a full refund if

you're not absolutely thrilled. *No questions asked.*

- ✓ Plus... there's a bonus tape (I'll tell you more about this later), that I want you to keep no matter what. (This is where all that juicy Spec Op weapons training is at. Must-see offensive and defensive stuff if you're into guns and knives at all.)
- ✓ What's more... if you're **not** happy with the package and want a refund, for *any reason* whatsoever, you'll be rushed every penny of your purchase price... PLUS...

### I Will Send You Another \$10 Just For Looking!

But this special low price and \$10 back on top is **ONLY** for an extremely limited time.

Look, I'm just a small businessman with the wolf always at the door, so I simply can't afford to hold this hot deal for long -- I'd go broke quick. So take advantage of this while you can. It's just an incredible opportunity for anyone who wants to learn...

### How To Fight Like A Caged Beast, Fast!

**Here are the ordering instructions:** Call 1-800-899-8153 and tell whoever answers you want the "American Combat Karate" video training package. You can use your credit card.

Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order (\$69 plus \$5 shipping and



handling, payable to TRS), just use the Priority Order Form below. Clip it out and send it in.

Of course, this is all on a **rush-rush basis**. You may not want to tell everybody this, but this low-ball offer will not... *cannot*... last. I simply can't afford to take a financial bath on this.

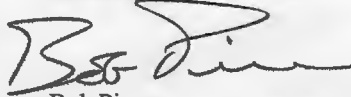
This offer may get pulled as soon as this issue comes off the stands... and you may *never* see it again. **So act now.**

This training is the real thing. Dale is a total fighter—over 200 street fights, massive military combat experience with elite Spec Op units, a mega-respected teacher who boxes professionally for a hobby.

This is perfect for anyone who wants to learn how to fight... fast. Nasty, quick stuff that doesn't require strength, agility or size.

I want to schedule a private lesson with this guy. This is the stuff I've been waiting for all my life.

Sincerely,



Bob Pierce

P.S. *Oh... almost forgot...* the bonus tape that I mentioned earlier is called "Dale Comstock's Armed Combat". It's an amazing piece of work that will teach you everything you'll need to protect yourself and your family from an armed attacker. This tape is *packed* with vital information

you'll need like:

- How to easily back up an armed attacker to give you plenty of room to escape or to launch your own **vicious attack**.
- Which "nerve-targets" will quickly send a knife wielding opponent to his knees.
- Secrets to using improvised weapons as a distraction or a direct-attack weapon.
- What you need to do **right friggin' now** when you are without a weapon and surprised by an armed attacker.
- A **simple "stun-strike"** that will *force* your attacker drop his knife like a red-hot coal.
- How effortless strip his knife away the second he lunges.
- Street-savvy "tip-offs" that will let you know *exactly* who you're dealing with.
- Outrageous distraction tricks that will confuse and boggle your attacker and leave an opening you could drive a truck through.
- A "target map" of lethal and nonlethal strike areas designed to **quickly disable** your opponent.
- A simple "American Style" slashing techniques that creates a safety zone around you while keeping your opponent under maximum pressure.
- Quickly disarm an enemy the way combat soldiers do it in the field -- fast, vicious and super-effective.
- Take a gun away from an assailant as easy as taking candy from a baby.

P.S.S. Make sure you're clear on this

outrageous offer. A full year to examine the package, no risk whatsoever, full refund if not happy... **KEEP** the "Armed Combat" video tape as our gift... and...

**Get \$10 EXTRA  
Just For Looking!**

I can't think of another way to make it easier to see this amazing training, without risk or obligation. Can you?

## Dale Comstock's Personal Combat

# G UARANATEE

"As a decorated soldier who has served in America's most recent combat situations, I know what it's like to have someone's life depend on my word. I don't take that responsibility lightly. My word is gold.

If you don't like American Combat Karate for any reason, send it back to TRS and they'll rush you *every penny* of your purchase price -- PLUS they'll send you another \$10.

You have my word on that.

-- Dale Comstock



## "American Combat Karate" Priority Order Form!

For fastest service use your credit card and Call Toll-FREE

**1-800-899-8153** (Department AK-27)

**YES!** I want to try this **hot new training** for myself. I know at \$69 I'm getting a *great deal* on this video package and I get a FULL YEAR to check it out and decide if I want to keep it (even though I can learn these stunning move in an hour). And I can **KEEP** the "Armed Combat" training video even if I decide return the "American Combat Karate" package for a full refund of every penny of my purchase price... PLUS... if I do ask for my money back, you will **give me an extra \$10** just for having gone to the trouble of checking it out. That's mega-generous... and this deal is just **too good to pass up**. **Here's how I want to pay:**

Enclosed is my check or money order (make payable to TRS) for \$74 (\$69 + 5 S&H)

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Tecate tunnel, are believed to have operated for years undetected. Border Patrol sources report, however, that most of the tunnels uncovered lately are new construction due to increased pressure in the post-September 11th world. Mainstream media reports poo-hooed the idea that the tunnels might be used to smuggle terrorists into the country, pointing out that drug runners might not make them (or their money) welcome.

— Jim Bartlett

### Terrs Smuggle AA Missiles Into U.S.

Federal agencies have issued an alert that Islamic terrorists have smuggled shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles into the United States. Classified intelligence reports identified the specific missiles as Russian-built SA-7 or American-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. Another not improbable possibility are Pak-made knockoffs of Stingers that were smuggled into Afghanistan during the anti-Soviet era.

### Rhodesians Worldwide Magazine

Rhodesians Worldwide is a magazine about, for and by Rhodesians, and for those interested in what has to be one of the most fascinating countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The 32-page, quarterly magazine is not merely an effective tool for keeping Rhodesian expats in touch, but is an excellent source of interesting and mostly unpublished stories that focus on all aspects of Rhodesian life, from the earliest days onward. Sections include "Zimbabwe News," a section for messages to other Rhodesians, and a section featuring news on what Rhodesians are doing in whatever country they now find themselves. Another popular section is the contact section in which people search for other people, and there is a classified section with hard-to-find items, and a personal classified that is free. A number of Rhodesian-related advertisers feature prominently in each issue. Births, deaths, engagements, marriages, and memorials are placed in the magazine for free. Each issue has a feature story, and often, poems and personal narratives. Deadlines for submission are 30 days prior to the publication.

For further information contact Chris and Annette Whitehead, P.O. Box 22034, Mesa, AZ 85277-2034; phone: 480-924-0431; fax: 480-924-0269; email: szczecin@dancris.com.

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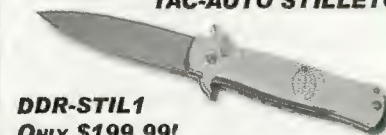
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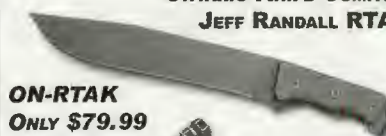
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## 73%: Second Amendment Is Individual Right

A recent ABC News poll revealed that 73% of the respondents agree with the U.S. Justice Department's interpretation of the Second Amendment as protecting the rights of individuals to keep and bear arms. As part of the polling process, the entire text of the Second Amendment was read to the participants. Duh-uh. What part of "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" don't you understand?

## SAD For Terrorists

Drawing from existing personnel in its Special Activities Division, the CIA has created a new unit specifically dedicated to taking the war on terrorism to the terrorists — up close and personal, in their face ... and pre-emptively. The new unit, whose size is of course classified, is to be unleashed only upon secret orders of the President, with a built-in requirement that congressional leaders be notified. Working under the aegis of the CIA's counterterrorism center where intelligence, military and law-enforcement agencies co-ordinate activities, the new unit will function much as other SAD operational units have in the past, but will be dedicated to the war on terrorism. With plausible deniability, black bags and wet assignments we wish this crème cadre every success.

## India Grounds MiG 21s

Although defense ties between India and Russia have grown over the last decade, storm clouds gather over the issue of India's MiG-21 fleet of 72 Soviet-made jets, which New Delhi has grounded in the wake of a series of accidents. Russian diplomats indicated to Defense News that the failures were due to Indian-made replacement parts from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. — or even that HAL may have built their own Mig-21s without licensing the plans. In the balance hangs a pending deal whereby India would buy 40 new Su-30 fighters, a plan that has been severely criticized in Parliament. The MiG-21 fleet was originally bartered from the former Soviet Union, and with the breakup of the Soviet empire, India was left combing former Soviet satellite states for spare parts. India has lost some 220 aircraft — mostly MiGs — in accidents. ✕

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# In Israel

BY DAVID STONE

## Jerusalem Diary

4 May 2002: The IDF has a new strategy: Using intelligence gathered from captured documents and prisoner interrogations, it stages pinpoint raids into Palestinian Authority-controlled areas. These raids have stopped at least > one suicide bombing every day for the past two weeks, but not without cost.

The PLO's cadre of CIA and *Spetznaz*-trained snipers continue to extract a price in IDF officers. Yesterday we suffered a Major killed and a Lt. Col. seriously wounded.

The raids are patterned after those used by Israeli forces hunting terrorists in southern Lebanon in the early '80s. *Shabak* and IDF Intelligence cooperate, sharing resources. They identify the locations where bombs are being manufactured, their makers, the suicide bomber(s) about to use them and the planners of the impending massacres. Just before the terror attack is launched, IDF Spec Ops Units and/or *Magav* Undercover operators, together with *Shabak* "specialists," infiltrate the Arab village or West Bank City where these terrorists hide under their rock.

[Censored], the hiding place, is isolated and those surrounding it move in and kick over the rock. The terrorists underneath have a choice, capture or death. IDF armored jeeps and APCs that have been "moving in the general area" suddenly pivot and race to that location encouraging a decision to surrender. Simultaneously, tanks appear on the outskirts of the village or drive down the city's Main Street. Apache helicopters overhead stop flying "silent." The vast majority of terrorists choose capture. We prefer it that way, because once out from under their rocks, they are most talkative — and without torture.

8 May: Last night a suicide bomber got lucky. Lately it only happens on average once weekly. Blew himself up in a "social club," killing 18 and > wounding 50. This intelligence failure comes at a particularly sensitive time.

According to the Jewish calendar, tomorrow is the 35th anniversary of reopening the half of Jerusalem closed-off to Jews in 1949, after the Jordanian Legion captured the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. All the Jews left alive were taken captive ending the 3,000-year presence of Jews in the ancient city of Jerusalem. In anticipation of tomorrow's Jerusalem March, there are 3 "man" teams of *MaGav* every 250 yards from French Hill to downtown and around the Old City.

9 May: Jerusalem Reunification Day and our Unit has teams on rooftops across

the center of the city. Our briefing included last minute notice of bombers "in the wire" in Jerusalem and a reminder: "Attacks can involve multiple terrorists. If a bomb goes off in your vicinity, pick yourself back up, shake it (and the bomber) off and look for terrorists Two and Three. Be especially alert to First Responders, even more so of those carrying rifles." The fact that I consider this briefing "routine" speaks for itself.

12 May: Our siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem has ended. Credible American Israeli reservists who were there report that members of America's Delta Force had been on the scene in case President Bush decided American and/or British citizens needed rescuing. Thirteen terrorists were flown to Cyprus, one wanted for the cold-blooded murder of an elderly American citizen and a second who reportedly received CIA training in the USA.

[XXX Paragraph removed at request of Military Censor XXX]

The northern border is heating up again. *Hizbullah* artillery has renewed its almost daily "shelling" of the Galilee. Today's burning shrapnel from "anti-aircraft" shells rained down on an Israeli village wounding a woman.

Small-arms fire from across the border has been directed at an IDF patrols. Intelligence reports a substantial build-up of *Hizbullah*'s arsenal is underway as a prelude to "a series of serious attacks." In the meantime, Israel TV's Channel Two reports American (SpecOps operators) are touring Iraq from Jordan's eastern border.

14 May: Today our Civil Guard Sniper Unit practiced at "the Pit." The location allowed us to check our zero shooting at an angle. It also allowed use of the busses there. Perhaps because this week Israel began training special bus security officers (like grounded sky marshals) our Commander had us practice synchronized shooting of eight small styrofoam heads (terrorists) placed inside the buses. The exercise was to achieve eight catastrophic brain shots from eight rifles firing with a single bang. We did, repeatedly.

20 May: *Arafat's Fatah Tanzim* are renewing their operational base in Ramallah. Over the weekend we caught/intercepted two suicide bombers on their way, via the neighbor-



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hood, to carryout attacks on Jerusalem. The coastal town of Netanya was less lucky. A suicide bomber blew himself up in the open-air market this afternoon, killing 3 and wounding 50.

23 May: Today Israelis learned a new word, "MEGA-Attack." The country's fuel storage facilities for gasoline, diesel and natural gas are all located together, at the main north/south traffic intersection, in our heavily populated central coast region. But for the Grace of God the entire complex should have been one *huge* bomb at the height of this morning's rush hour. Had the terrorist attack fully worked the death, destruction and harm to Israel's commerce and infrastructure is beyond my ability to imagine and to describe with words. Pay Heed — the plan may have been tested in Israel, but it has applications in the USA and elsewhere.

The terrorists had done their homework. They had located a fuel tanker truck that was routinely parked unsecured overnight. They planted a cellular telephone-triggered bomb on its underside and later followed it to the fuel-storage complex. The terrorists watched as Security failed to locate the explosive device and the tanker passed through the gate. Waiting until the tanker's filling was underway, they set off their bomb. *It Blew!* The tanker was engulfed in flames, but the complex's fire-suppression system quickly extinguished the blaze. A half-hour later one of our Top Cops explained in a radio interview that the terrorists had picked a tanker carrying diesel, non-explosive and slow-igniting, instead of a tanker filled with gas, highly explosive. Hey, *Shit-for-Brains*, instead of telling them how to do it right next time, why not leave them wondering why their plan failed?

All day there has been a bombardment of disclosures about recently thwarted MEGA-Attacks including a simultaneous attack on seven coastal cities and a triple-bombing in

Jerusalem. The terrorists' goal is nothing short of achieving an attack in Israel worthy of comparison to the destruction of America's World Trade Center Twin Towers. The competition among the remaining leadership of the various terror organizations is intense. The belief is that the first to succeed will be able to repair the significant damage to operations, personnel and infrastructure it suffered from Operation Defensive Shield and rise from the ashes like the mythical phoenix, preeminent among its rivals.

Mrs. Stone and I are on the way to the opening of the Law Firm's Tel Aviv office. The TV Evening News is on the radio. "Top Story of the Day — Security sources disclose that last week they foiled a terrorist attempt to blow-up Israel's two tallest buildings. A truck loaded with 1,000 kilograms of commercial-grade explosive was intercepted on its way to Tel Aviv's Twin Towers. It was to be parked in the lot under the Towers or — *ala* the USMC Barracks in Beirut — rammed into the buildings and exploded." Wonderful.

This evening's affair is taking place in the new office located on one of the top floors of the Towers! Tonight, a suicide bomber disguised as a blonde walked into a park area where mostly elderly folks were playing chess and blew himself up, killing three and wounding 40.

26 – 31 May: Last night a suicide bomber tried to ram his car into a Tel Aviv disco before blowing himself up. The disco's security guards fired through the windshield hitting the terrorist and foiling his plan. The terrorist fell out of the car, which stopped and partially exploded short of the intended target. From where he stood the guard fired two rounds into the terrorist's head, then closed and emptied his remaining rounds into the attacker. Asked why he fired 13 rounds into the terrorist, the guard answered, "Because I only had



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one magazine." He received an official police commendation this morning.

I have now been down (by invitation) for a second time to *Mitkan Adam*, home of the IDF's Marksmanship Branch and Sniper School. When field security, good sense and the Military Censor permit, I'll have some interesting information to relate.

The past several days have been like old times. They began with a medium-size bomb (4 kilos of commercial-grade explosive) found stashed for later use; not planted, one neighborhood away. We have been on Alert "C" status ever since. Two primed and ready-to-blow female suicide bombers are believed to be hiding in northern Jerusalem, having infiltrated from Ramallah. There may be others. The terrorists, members of Arafat's Fatah Tanzim, are trying to get to their targets. We are trying to catch them before they do.

The police chopper has been overhead for three days and nights. Once on the street behind and twice on the street in front of our apartment the bomb squad has used shaped charge "controlled explosions" to blow-up suspicious objects. All neighboring Arab villages have been sealed-off. MaGav periodically search an individual house. Leaving the neighborhood (a 400-yard drive) now takes an extra 45 minutes. Special MaGav Units closed-down the highway to Jerusalem's center and individually check each vehicle.

You must show your national identity card and answer a question (they want to hear your accent) before you are permitted to pass.

The hunt continues while we try to prevent a repeat of events from the other evening. A member of Arafat's Fatah walked into the entrance of an ice cream parlor in the center of the country. Amid mostly infants in their strollers, children and their grandparents he detonated himself, wounding 13 children. He killed grandmother Ruth and her 18-month-old granddaughter, Sinai.

This is the *real* face of Palestinian terrorism's father figure, Yassar Arafat and his evil minions.

My older daughter has decided her daughter will be named ... Sinai.

*David Stone is an American citizen who several years ago emigrated to Israel. He is a member of the Israeli Police Reserve Sniper Unit. Contributions from his monthly journal appear in each edition of Soldier Of Fortune.* ✕

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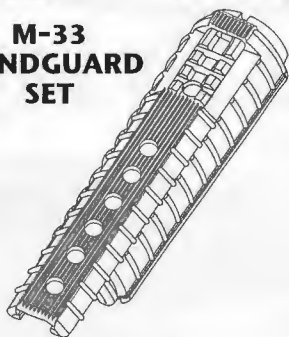
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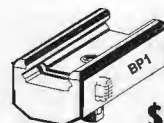
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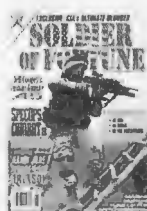




# flak



## Slap Us, Hit Us, Hurt Us #1 (Internet Rumors)



I've been a very loyal reader of your magazine (almost 11 years), but when I opened this month's issue I found it to be very upsetting. On at least two occasions I found Internet rumors printed in your magazine as if they were chiseled in stone fact. These rumors have been proven FALSE by at least three sources! I have included links to one such source. The first rumor was

the Mohammad Atta blurb on page 42, and how Bill Clinton and Warren Christopher forced his release from an Israeli prison. The other version of the original rumor said Ronald Reagan and George Schultz. Why not include Ronald Reagan's name too? Are you now including and excluding certain names from rumors to stir up shit with readers for your own purposes? When did the magazine decide to enter politics?

The second rumor was the area code 809 on page 8, and how it was a scam area code [sic]. False again. I always figured what your wrote [sic] put in the magazine was fact, now I wonder if some isn't just fiction, made up by your

writers. I'm a Democrat who worked for G.W. Bush in Texas for five years, (and his DESERTION is why I'm a Democrat. Rather serve a draft dodger than a yellow-spined coward deserter.) And I put up with the assumption I want to get rid of your guns, even though I'm an NRA member. I would say you've lost a reader, but I am one of those Clinton-Gore Democrats so I suppose you'd rather one of "our kind" not read your magazine anyway.

Todd Manning  
Via E-mail

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and to you as well, who pointed out the error associated with Atta/Atta. In our instance, this was not taken from the internet as you blindly assume, but was taken from the Boston Globe newspaper, as outlined in our correction that ran in bold-face in the next issue; and it was an editor's error, not that of the author. Neither was the "Area 809" item taken from the Internet; it was taken from a warning put out by ATT and various law-enforcement agencies: It is a valid warning, whatever may have been put out on the 'net notwithstanding. For those lucid readers who would like to check that out, we would refer to [www.att.com/fraud/home.html#hres/sr](http://www.att.com/fraud/home.html#hres/sr). Oddly enough, the debunker's site to which you referred also lists this link. You must have missed it in your raging paranoia about our "excluding certain names from rumors to stir up shit with readers for our own purposes" or laboring over "just fiction made up by our writers." Hope you get to feeling better, Pard.

**Slap Us #2**  
(Mamma Said Stupid Is As Stupid Does)



Whatever possessed you to run the ad for the item "Women Are Stupid"? Did some stupid man in your organization think it was funny? I am NOT amused. First, women are NOT stupid. That has been proven over and over again. Individuals of BOTH sexes may be a little light when it comes to brains, but neither sex is stupid. If this was an attempt at humor, it was feeble at best. Women read SOF! I get dibs on the current issue when it arrives in the mail. Women PAY for subscriptions to SOF for their sweeties. Women have always been a part of the SOF staff. Women have always been at SOF Conventions. Women make it possible for their guys to get to SOF Conventions (and most other events of any importance) by making all the arrangements! I hope the author shows up at Firebase Las Vegas 2002 at Terrible's Casino in Las Vegas. A bunch of us "stupid women" would like to talk to him — after we take him for a swim at the end of a long chain and BBQ his balls at the evening festivities. An apology is in order to your readers — male and especially female. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Norma Kennemer

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**#288 OCTOBER 2001**  
TERRORISM: U.S. intel, the weakest link; DOMESTIC AFFAIRS: tracking OKC bombers; WEAPONS: H&K'S G36; top-notch Combloc ammo; EASTERN EUROPE: Milosevic's New World Order



**#289 NOVEMBER 2001**  
ADVENTURE: security gypsies; WEAPONS: hot .45s from Kimber & Auto-Ordnance; AFRICA: Nigeria's billion-dollar scam; ISRAEL: with the Border Police; AFRICA: torture and terror

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**American Sniper in Israel**  
**Torture To Prevent Terrorism?**

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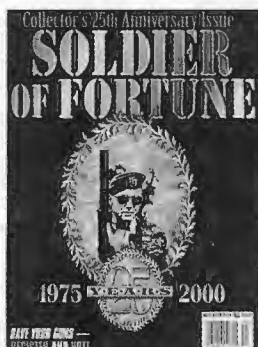
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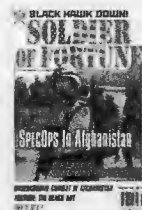
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### Slap Us #3 (Torture)



I have followed your discussion of torture during the French-Algerian anti-terrorist war. I have followed it with some alarm. Despite some tactical intelligence obtained by

torture, the French (and this cannot be too strongly stressed) lost the war.

A similar use of torture and murder occurred in Argentina's "dirty war." In this war the Argentine government defeated the terrorists, and lost the war. Embracing the French example, failure and all, the Argentine government knew that it would make mistakes, estimating that some 50,000 people would be murdered, some 5,000 of them innocent mistakes. Some government elements were more blunt, planning to first kill all subversives, then all their supporters, then all their sympathizers, then the undecided.

The problem is that once this course is adopted, it is hard to stop. In the days of the American "3rd Degree" police interrogations, innocent people confessed under torture. There can be no doubt that torture will be used against innocent persons. There are current cases where police forensic chemists were found to have falsified physical evidence against innocent persons: DNA subsequently acquitted many of their victims.

When law enforcement talks wistfully of the efficiency of torture, it should be remembered that they have used it before and used it indiscriminately and against the innocent. In Argentina torture started as a means to gain intelligence, continued as a means to punish terrorists, expanded as a means to punish possible terrorist sympathizers, and finally because the interrogators liked it. Turning soldiers into such monsters is a bad thing.

It is not that torture will be ineffective against terrorists, or even that it is wrong. It is ultimately self-defeating. It is stupid. In Algeria, the population was

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not inclined to be a part of a French culture that included torture. In Argentina, the government won the war, but lost its moral authority and legitimacy. An attempt to recover this legitimacy in the Falklands War caused the fall of the government.

In Argentina, torture was not even necessary. The police found terrorist cells through ordinary detective work. The review of utility records and use, tracing money, and inquiries about new residents with no children or employment led to terrorist safe houses. Infuriated by terrorist brutality, the military went directly to torture for revenge, not for lack of intelligence. Torture gave quick results, but the results were not always true. [Further] torture resulting from such misinformation drove a wedge between relatives of torture victims and the government.

Torture is no shortcut to strategic victory. Instead, it complicates strategic victory by antagonizing relatives of torture victims and diminishes the moral superiority of the government. If our government fights terrorists by becoming terrorists, we gain nothing.

Kevin L. Jamison  
Attorney at Law

Thanks for your well-stated points, with which we agree. The article cited was meant to chronicle, not condone, the practice of torture.

### Slap Us #4 (We Deserve It)

Regarding Al Venter's article "Arma-geddon' in the Middle East": The Yom Kippur War was in 1973, not 1974. Perhaps this hazy sense of chronology led Venter to blame President Carter for an alleged arms cut-off to Israel in the crisis stage of the war. Carter, of course, wasn't elected President until 1976. Nixon, who was the President during the Yom Kippur War, far from cutting off military aid to Israel, restocked the IDF during the war (via airlift) with equipment and munitions earmarked for U.S. forces. I don't mind a little Carter-bashing, but at least get the facts straight.

Mark Lacy

You're right, and thanks to you and myriad other readers for pointing out these errors. ✕

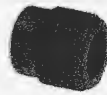


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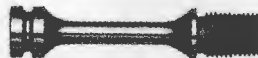
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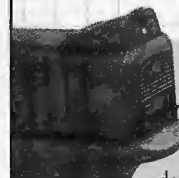


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Those of us whose never-ending quest for protein includes rodents will be pleased by a new offering from Ka-Bar, the American company so well known for hard-working cutlery that their name is often generically attached to any military-style Bowie. Their #1460 Spear Point sheath knife is one of their Impact Series Tactical Knives, and in that role it would serve admirably: It is rugged and well-balanced, has a molded ergonomic Zytel handle, thumb serrations on the back of the blade opposite the finger contour, and comes epoxy-powder coated in tactical black.

Unfortunately, every subject on which we offered to field-test this new tactical blade, pulled a gun. Maybe we should have waited for daylight, or said "please," or something. So, although that exercise was a bust except for a couple wallets thrown at us from a distance, the excellent hang and balance of the piece also make it right at home as a heavy-duty, compact field knife. You know, the kind of field knife that is small enough to have with you (3-7/8" blade, 8-1/2" overall) and big enough to get the job done. Its superb balance and handiness will serve equally well, whether you are carefully cutting around a rodent's gall bladder or doing some fancy slicing and dicing in a dark alley.

We would not detract from the various fine stainless alloys commonly used in today's cutlery, but our personal preference when the edge is very important has always been high-carbon steel: We just may not be clever enough to put a good edge on stainless, but always have done better on a carbon-steel blade. Ka-Bar's 1460 Spear Point came out of the box sharp enough to shave with, for those perverts who do such a thing. But for skinning/dressing small game you don't want "shaving sharp," you want "surgical sharp." The 1095 blade on the Model 1460 came to up that with a few light strokes of a diamond slip, and stayed that way through several squirrels and a lot of whacking on the cutting board as they were chunked up for stew. And the powder-epoxy coating stayed in

place when we rudely ran it through the dishwasher when we were done (this particular safari took place in the backyard).

The exposed edge of the blade was barely stained, of course, and here we would like to interject in favor of carbon-steel blades that we have never seen a working carbon-steel blade rusted to the point of being non-functional. Once plying a semi-legitimate trade as a salvage diver, we worked our knives hard and they were constantly wet and often covered with light rust — but the only ones rusted beyond use were those salvaged from the bottom, or forgotten in a bilge (and there was one Randal, worth the work, that we bead-blasted back to a perfectly functional knife). So if you actually work with knives, don't be afraid of carbon-steel blades. Factory specs for heat-treating on this Ka-Bar blade are for a hardness of RC 56-58, just right for a blade of this robust design.

The ballistic nylon sheath for the 1460 has a contoured, rigid insert that is firm, flexible and quiet; a Velcro®-lined belt loop that fits belts or weird positions on your LBE, and a snap-closure.

Whether your anticipated work-piece is a four-legged squirrel or a two-legged rat, you can expect Ka-Bar's 1460 Spear Point to give the dependable service associated with that maker's name.

For the dealer nearest you, contact Ka-Bar Knives, Dept. SOF, 1125 East State Street, Olean, NY 14760; phone: 800-282-0130; check out their website at [www.ka-bar.com](http://www.ka-bar.com).

## Ka-Bar's Wart Hog

Every now and then a new design comes along that illustrates to a T, the phrase "the elegance of functional design" — something pug-ugly at first glance, that performs its function to such perfection it grows to be a new paradigm of the beauty that is in the eye of the beholder. Such a design was the A-10 Thunderbolt attack aircraft, quickly renamed the "Wart Hog" by the jet jockeys who flew it. And such a design is Ka-Bar's Wart Hog tactical knife, part of their Impact Series, all of which feature contoured Zytel® handles and Eagle sheaths. Ka-Bar's





Wart Hog has an overall length of 8-1/4 inches, and a blade length of 3-5/8 inches. And without a doubt, those are the *workingest* 3-5/8 inches we've ever seen on a knife blade.

With a meaty cross-section, and a deep belly with a wide radius, the Wart Hog is obviously designed as a chopper. A *chopper with a 3-5/8-inch blade?* Yup — and an effective one at that. We split kindling, whacked off a pile of shelter-sized sticks, loaned it to a friend to skin and butcher a pig for a family BBQ, and when we got it back ran it through the dish-washer and into the kitchen to slice up some salad makings (photo). When a blade will do these tasks in succession and finish the week slicing tomatoes without so much as a touch-up (and not even lose its powder coating), there can be little doubt as to its quality. Only a true fool, of course, would take such a handy knife into the kitchen, knowing full well that any neat gear will be glommed by the Head Biscuit Burner. That is a risk, of course, but at least this way we always know where to find it when we're headed out. Few skinners or choppers serve so well as a general-purpose field knife, making it a good choice for a single take-with knife for field or tactical chores.

Longitudinal grooves in the Wart Hog's Zytel handle give a good grip, wet or dry, and Zytel is an excellent material for this application: It is one of the strongest thermoplastics (has been used for decades in gears, drill housings and such), and can be molded to an appropriate texture, without the blister-working stickiness of "live" rubber handles. Kraton®-type handles or grips are fine on a purely tactical knife for the secure bond they make with the hand, because a work session in a "tactical" situation usually takes mere minutes. Extended labors, however, beg a handle that will not raise blisters, and its Rubenesque demeanor notwithstanding, the Wart Hog is a multi-functional cutting/chopping tool you will use a lot, no doubt for some extended work sessions, and the handles as executed are optimal. It is also available with "classic GI Ka-Bar" handles if that should be your preference.

In kitchen, *kra'al*, or combat, this is a knife you will use. If you regard knives as tools, expect to be well-served.

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# SOFT PROVING ground

## Custom .45 ... on a Budget

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN LAWSON

This has happened to almost every purchaser of a 1911-type pistol: The shooter realizes that he (or she) would be better equipped if certain details of the pistol's slide or frame were different. The most common changes made at this point are substitution of custom grips or high-visibility sights for the ones commonly provided by the factory. The next desirable options are often a higher grip safety, longer thumb safety and a pronounced flat on the grip frame below the trigger guard. Post-production, such changes are costly and often impractical, and will always put the pistol out of action for a prolonged period while a gunsmith makes the changes and refinishes the piece. This revelation leads to a sobering look at the cost of post-production modifications to a factory gun, and the cost of wasted parts that have already been paid for and must now be discarded add to the total. A casual glance at a custom gunsmith's



*(above) A custom .45 for the cost of an out-of-the-box model? With custom grip frame and slide from Essex and the remaining parts from Brownell's, Lawson built this champagne Government Model on a beer budget.*







price list often kills any thoughts of such post-production modifications.

The recent availability of quality aftermarket 1911 grip frames and slides, having a number of semi-custom options right from the factory, however, now makes a shooter's nebulous dream of a full-custom pistol to suit his tastes much closer to a practical reality.

If the shooter orders his frame and slide from the factory with all of the desired features and, having some experience in fitting all of the other modified aftermarket parts together, a full custom pistol can be assembled for a total cost of less than that of a stock pistol with no options. The photos show two assembled, fully customized pistols built on Essex enhanced frames and enhanced slides. The two examples were chosen because they are in the most popular and practical calibers available: .45 ACP and 9X23 Winchester.

### .45 ACP

The .45 pistol was built up on a frame and slide mated together at the factory to eliminate the tedious fitting required for smooth functioning. It was ordered with plunger tube and ejector attached and with a 1/4" radius on the grip safety horn to accommodate an aftermarket high-grip safety. All of the parts were selected from the Brownell's catalog.

The .45's enhanced slide had a faired and lowered ejection port, a .9mm firing pin and extractor cuts and was provided with a front sight dovetail for modern high-visibility, easily replaceable front blades, and the proper dovetail and relief cuts for a BoMar adjustable rear sight. These adjustable sights are more rugged than those available in the past and are imminently suitable for duty-carry or for use in combat. This judgment does, however, represent my own thinking on the practicality of adjustable sights. Many fine fixed high-visibility sights are also available, and the slides can be milled at the Essex factory for a perfect fit.

The barrel I chose was a 1960 National Match that required more fitting time than any other part assembled. There are, however, many fine barrels that are suitably accurate when supplied as drop-in versions.

The front sight blade was made by MGW and the rear is an adjustable BoMar with combat blade. The factory dovetails and relief cuts were spaced so accurately that it was only necessary to drive them into place with a soft-faced hammer.

A tight match bushing was fitted to the barrel and slide. A carbon fiber trigger and grooved flat mainspring housing were fitted. Note that a Commander-style hammer is required when using a

*Essex also offers custom frame and slide components in 9x23 Winchester, with performance comparable to the 9mm Sig round — another "custom" Government Model at "factory" prices. (inset) The internal parts of the 9x23 Winchester went together with a minimum of fitting: Parts are also available that require little more than assembly, and offer performance equal to the best, at a price far less.*

higher grip safety.

I used titanium-coated hammer and sear pins, with the others plain steel.

The Pearce grips finished the front contour of the grip frame to my liking. The pistol is functionally reliable and produces groups from a Ransom rest identical with those of my Cold Cup Colt.

### 9x23 Winchester

The 9x23 pistol differs from the .45 by having a smaller firing pin, a different firing-pin spring, a 9mm extractor and ejector, and a Colt dual-wound recoil spring and spring guide to fit the inner spring of the pair.

The barrel is a Colt 9x23 with matching bushing.

Only factory Winchester 9x23 loads have been fired in testing, but the pistol is capable of handling reasonable levels of handloads and it will even fire the 9mm Largo (Bergmann-Bayard) if the proper ammunition is not available. Accuracy with factory loads was as good as any 9mm target pistol from the Ransom rest.

As it is equipped, the factory 9x23 Winchester loads are in the 1,400 fps-range, where .38 super pistols produce 1,300 fps velocities. Thus, it is a very hot caliber, with ballistics identical to the .357 Sig-chambered pistols having similar barrel lengths.

Each pistol cost me less than a factory, unmodified Government Model. Based on the cost and quality, I think that shooter-assembled full-custom service pistols will soon be commonplace.

The slides and grip frames in various configurations are available from:

Essex Arms, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 959, Hardwick, VT 05843; phone: 802-472-3215; on the web at: [WWW//Essex-arms.com](http://WWW//Essex-arms.com). The parts and appurtenances are available from Brownell's, Inc., Dept. SOF, 200 South Front Street, Montezuma, IA 50171; phone: 641-623-5400; on the web at: [www.brownells.com](http://www.brownells.com).

*John Lawson was Pistolsmithing Editor of American Handgunner magazine for 20 years. Prior to that he was Gunsmithing Editor for Gunsport magazine for 10 years. A veteran of U.S. Army Ordnance Corps (Korea), Lawson has been a police firearms instructor for half a century. ✕*





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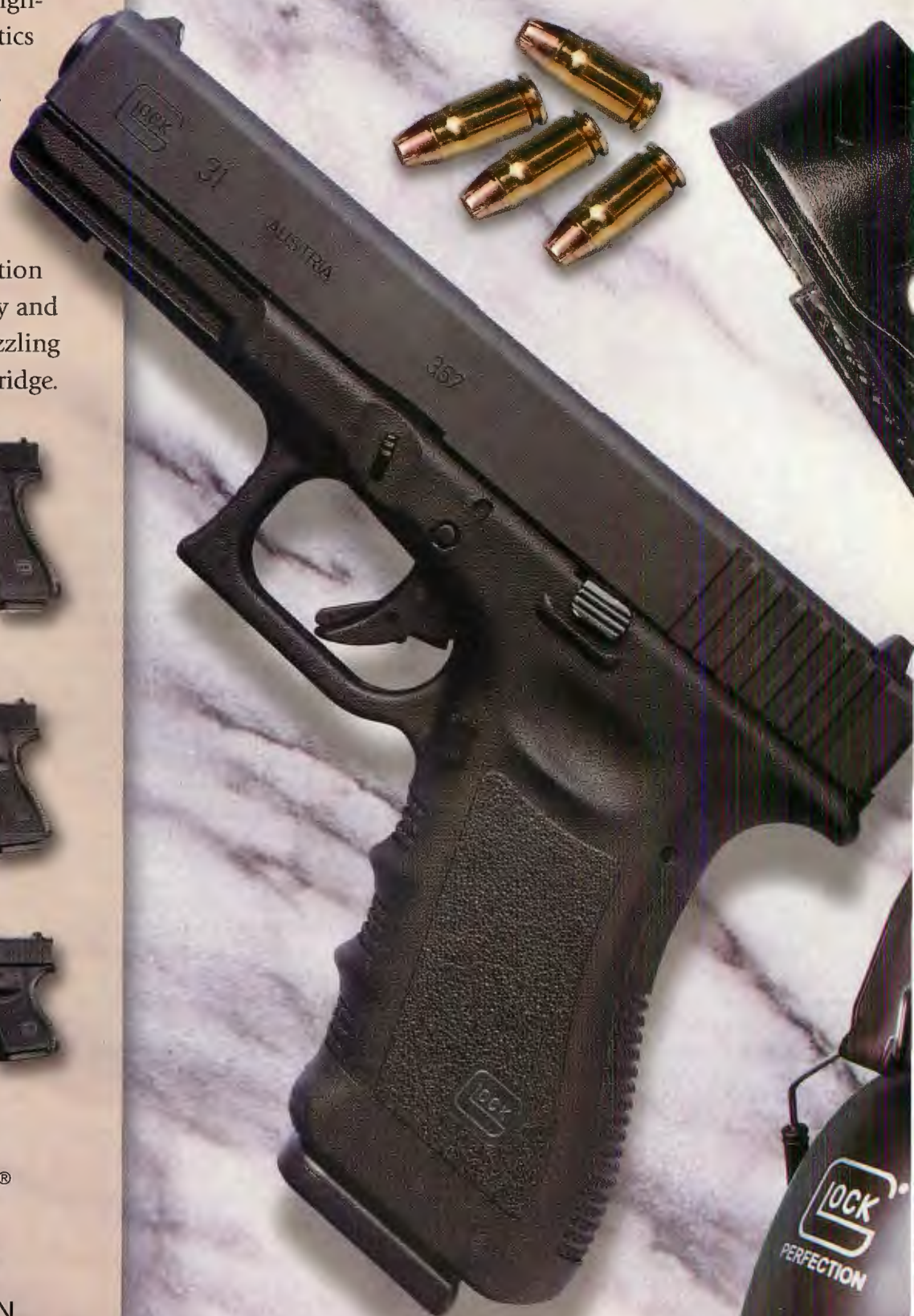


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PERFECTION





# TOUGH TIMES

BY JEFF COOPER

**H**istory is not a happy study. We cannot find a period which seemed cheerful to the people living in it. We cannot say that the present is the most fearful era in the human race, because we do not know enough about the entire story. But certainly today is the most unpromising day of which we have definitive record. The mood of the times is simply hatred-of all for all. The hatred of individuals for individuals is probably no more, and may even be less, than we know of in other times, but certainly the hatred of groups is at this time the most fearful historical phenomenon we know about.

The philosophical historian is not content to ask "What?" He must also ask "Why?" Why is it that nations, races, cults, religions, even academic disciplines, seem more eager to destroy each other today than ever before? I do not have an answer to this question, but I certainly do pose it. These group hatreds are not just inexplicable; they are terrifying. They are also laughable. There is no reason why any individual Irishman should hate any individual Englishman; why an Englishman should hate a German; why a Tamil should hate a Singhales; or why a Baptist should hate a Methodist.

Over the great extent of what may be called "Eastern" humanity, or that segment of it which extends from Morocco to Burma, we find great numbers of people quite ready to kill other people for no reasons they can enunciate. The devout Moslem may claim that the unbeliever is the accursed of God, and thus the proper target for his rocket-propelled

grenade, but when pushed for a reason, he currently seems to avoid the question. This would be just plain silly if it were not so horrible. It is both silly and horrible, but that does nothing to erase the horror.

At this period the spite seems to be directed westward. I do not wish to wipe out Islam, but Islam seems to be anxious to wipe me out as a representative of the West.

Consider the situation in Philistia, that region currently comprised of Israel, Gaza, Jerusalem, and what is confusingly referred to as the "West Bank." Philistia, or what was once known as the Land of Canaan, gave its name to the people living there as Palestinians, but these Palestinians, or Philistines, are difficult to describe at a time in which most people are residents of nations, and there is no nation of Palestine. It may be that there should be such a nation, but the task of setting it up runs squarely into this ancient and implacable hatred dominating the area. Israel does currently describe itself as a state, with a government, a national policy, an army, and such normal characteristics. The boundaries of the State of Israel can be established fairly well to the satisfaction of the Israelis, but not in a way that will satisfy the Philistines. In a historic sense the Land of Israel—"Eretz Israel"—should extend from the Jordan River on the east to the Mediterranean on the west, and from Dan in the north to Bersheba in the south. "The West Bank" or the "Occupied West Bank," in fact, has almost no geographic significance. I believe the Jews would be happy to accept the concept of "Greater Israel," but I feel sure that the Philistines would not.

---

War is an ugly business, but that must not be permitted  
to destroy our determination. Let us with God's grace  
avoid Armageddon; but if we are in it, let's win it!

---



So what's to discuss? If we accept Yassar Arafat as the spokesman for the Philistines, what they would accept would be withdrawal of Israel from Israel.

Apparently, they think that all Jews should move back to Brooklyn, which is no more sensible than suggesting that all Arabs should move back east of the Jordan River.

A difficulty seldom enunciated by current diplomacy is that Israel is a "Western" country, where "Palestine" is not. This hands us a clear-cut East-West conflict, which is unlikely to be solved by conversation. It is difficult to study the matter for lack of basic understanding of the issues involved, but it seems that if we can categorize "the East" as a culture, it wants the conveniences of "the West" while rejecting the moral philosophy thereof. That moral philosophy is frequently designated as "Judeo-Christian," and while not many Westerners hold themselves ready to defend their culture by force of arms, it may turn out that they have no choice. It is obvious that the church does not at this time bear the banner of the West, whereas Islam chooses to do so, and intends to do so, for the East. If it comes to out-and-out fighting, we shall see the East outnumber the West by several orders of magnitude, whereas Western military power shall greatly exceed that of the East. This puts one in mind of the traditional gladiatorial contest between the infantry soldier and the spear fisherman. Legend has it that this was always a close fight, but let us hope we do not have to put it to a test in this new aspect.

At this time the East *outnumbers* the West, but the West *outfights* the East. This can be proven in the various small engagements which have so far erupted here and there. The East does not lack for courage, but it certainly lacks for competence. The Moslem society, if we may call it such, does not understand, nor appreciate, competence. I have pretty good sources of information from the Near East, and, since my spe-

cialty is fighting, the fighting qualities of what our people often call the *ragheads* are not so hot. Among other things, they seem to prefer the .223 cartridge to the 308 because the larger round kicks them more and thus causes them to flinch. We Westerners can handle that. Operating a tank in combat calls for what must be called a "Western mind." A tanker must be machine-oriented in order to succeed. I call your attention to the marvelous account of the battle of the fall of the Golan Heights described by Avigdor Kahalani in his book *The Heights of Courage*.

The Syrian tanks were T-85s. The Israel tanks were Centurions. The Syrian tanks may have been very slightly superior technically, but when the sun came up there were 54 dead Syrian tanks in front of the Israel positions, and no Centurions. It is similar in the air.

You may recall a case when the people in Moscow demanded that Syrian MIGs must shoot down at least one of the Israeli F-16s. There was no dogfight since the Israel flight controllers simply put the F-16s in the dominant position and blew away the interceptors.

One must never underestimate his enemy, of course. He must, however, be as realistic as he can, and these people who seem to want to spend much of their time "with their noses on the ground and their asses in the air" seem to be opting for the wrong war. Let us hope so!

The suicide warrior does indeed pose a distressing element. He (or possibly she) is certainly distressing — but in no way decisive. It is all very heroic to die for one's coun-

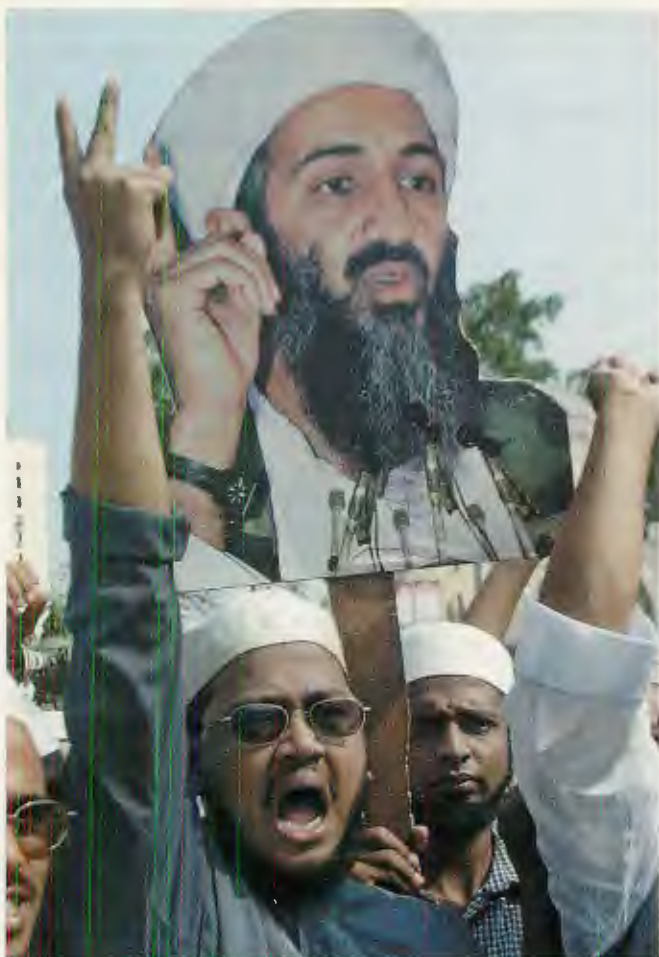
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*A Thai Muslim starts his motorcycle, which is adorned with a picture of terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, in downtown Bangkok, 24 January 2002. Although not as radical or vocal as their Muslim counterparts in other Asian countries, many Thai Muslims still openly support bin Laden and condemn the Western alliance for attacking both him and Afghanistan.*



REUTERS/Rafiqur Rahman





Bangladeshi Muslims with portrait of fugitive Osama bin Laden chant anti-U.S. slogans during a protest in Dhaka on 2 November 2001. Members of Bangladesh Islamic Law Implementation Committee, a radical Muslim organization, took to the streets after Friday prayer to condemn attacks on Afghanistan and extend their support to bin Laden.

try, but only if one accomplishes something. The Japanese aviator who flew his aircraft into a U.S. warship gave his life under the impression that he was in some way avoiding the invasion of his homeland. That was not good thinking, but it was thinking, of a sort. To walk into a crowd of shoppers on the street, whom you do not know and who have never done you any harm, and then to kill a dozen of them along with yourself, is not thinking of any sort. It is mindless and accomplishes nothing. As we wring our hands quite understandably over a score, or a couple hundred, or even a couple of thousand dead, just remember that in a major war our dead run into the tens, or even hundreds, of thousands before any political or economic objective may be reached.

Though I dislike to get personal, I may point out that I have fought in a couple of serious wars and I have seen battlefields where one could not walk without stepping on bodies. War is an ugly business, but that must not be permitted to destroy our determination. Let us with God's grace avoid Armageddon; but if we are in it, let's win it!

Born John Dean Cooper, and known to his friends as "Jeff," the author is a former Marine Lt. Col. who served in WWII and Korea. Jeff is also the father of "The Modern Techniques of Shooting," and a former history professor. ✂

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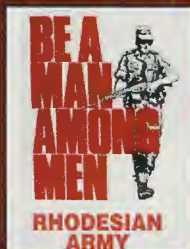
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Cpl Lou Penney, 3 PPCLI BC

# Bolt Actions *Speak Louder Than Words*

## Canadian Snipers in Afghanistan, Part II

BY ROB KROTT

Last month SOF interviewed Canadian snipers as they recounted how they became a “911” unit for the American forces to whom they were attached, for missions at the sharp edge of the Allied assault on the Shah-i-Kot mountain range. We continue our debrief of Canadian sniper Master Corporal “Alex” as he describes a productive shooting position, in the open on a hilltop — but with the sniper’s coveted good fields of fire.

“It was unreal; I was so excited. All of us really, we were just glad to be there. There was a guy that was moving up on the hill that an Apache was shooting at and [we] just turned around, and engaged him.” According to Alex their initial engagement lasted about two hours.

“We were there about an hour or an hour-and-a-half when Charlie Company moved out. The SF guys said they had to catch up to them and asked us if we

were okay. We still had targets so we’d keep clearing, that’s our job — we work alone. So they said if we needed help to give them a call. We were up there about another half-hour or so and carried on the mission. Anytime something would pop up we’d take care of it. We waited another half-hour until everything was good to go and then changed position.”

It was a team effort. “Ed’ (the No. 3 man on team security) kept running



back and forth through that altitude grabbing optics, ammo, equipment. With the elevation we had there it was great that he did that because if he hadn't we wouldn't have had the equipment that we did. The whole team worked great."

While engaging al-Qaeda forces on the Whale's Back, Alex' team was tasked to suppress some enemy mortars. The U.S. infantrymen were in the open without cover. The enemy was protected. After airstrikes were called in to suppress the mortars the enemy mortarmen would merely emerge from their caves and jeer before putting more fire onto the Americans. And when they did, the Canadian snipers took them out. The Canadian snipers were credited with saving the lives of many American infantrymen.

Alex' team spent 14 days providing sniper-support on Operation Anaconda. "We got switched between the first and second [battalions] and I would just ask 'where's Charlie Company' and I started recognizing the CO. When

everything started hitting it our call sign was '63' and the next thing you know it was 'Canadian Snipers.' We ended up being free agents on the battlefield going for company to company wherever we were needed. We were more than happy with that."

### The Long Shots

Somewhere in the middle of the first week of Anaconda, Alex made his longest shot. It was an elevated target at 2,310 meters. Alex was shooting from approximately 8,500 feet at an enemy forward observer at 9,000 feet (verified by his spotter via the Leica Vector laser range-finder) with his bolt-action McMillan .50 cal (LRSW), firing AMAX Match ammunition and mounting a 16x Leupold scope. His first two shots missed. "The first shot was high and left, the second shot was left, and the third shot was a hit." Alex told *Soldier Of Fortune* that the altitude, the cold, and the thin air might have enhanced bullet velocity. The spotter, according to Alex, "did all the work."

The snipers kept a logbook of the shots themselves, but their emphasis was on the mission: "Get the mission done, carry on to the next mission. We really didn't want to carry that kind of information with us, in case of capture." Afterwards, Alex put some notes down for possible intelligence information. Alex was reluctant to talk about the extreme range of some of the shots the Canadian shooters achieved.

When I mentioned comparing this shot to Carlos Hathcock's 2,250 meter shot near Duc Pho in 1967, Alex said, "It was also a different weapon, a different environment, so you certainly can't (compare it) ... no one can take anything away from Hathcock's accomplishments. His was an awesome shot. Everyone's talking about these 'long shots' but you know what? I could get yourself down behind it (the McMillan in that situation) and as long as you've got a great spotter, he's the one who makes the shot; then you could make the shot." Technology certainly has pushed the envelope and Alex agreed with that. He's modest about the shot and would rather avoid any discussion on it. It's obvious that Alex and his fellow snipers were not interested in statistics or records, just completing the mission. "We were just so glad that we could be a part of

*(opposite) In Kandahar before being deployed in support of U.S. GIs near the town of Bagram, sniper from Canada's 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI) demonstrates art of hiding himself and Parker-Hale C3A1 rifle. (below) The first time the Maple Leaf has flown in combat: In their first combat mission, as opposed to peacekeeping, since Korea, Canadian troops made an excellent showing and were well-supported by the press and populace at home.*

Canadian Press/ by Stephen Thorne





that operation,” said Alex.

The other three-man sniper team from 3 PPCLI made the longest shot of the operation: 2,400 meters. Alex confirms the shot was made, as the team members confirmed the shot and the range was verified by the Leica Vector laser range-finder — the Vector is great piece of kit — but he doesn't know for certain if it was a one-shot hit. “I was talking to them about that. The two guys running the show there, they confirmed it. It [the account of the 2,400-meter shot] didn't just come from one guy. They did confirm that [the hit]. I don't know exactly where they hit. I don't know if it was on the first shot.” Alex did confirm that this extremely long shot was made against an enemy combatant in a Toyota Hilux pickup truck.

Alex refused to indicate actual numbers of confirmed kills but did agree that several enemy were successfully engaged and the comment from a U.S. Special Forces source claiming the Canadians confirmed well over 20 “kills” was essentially correct. “We decided as a group that we won't disclose how many we got. We know what we did; we'll leave it at that. We never expected all this press [media attention]. We did our job and we had a great time doing it.”

### **Gear, Terrain, Altitude, And Load**

After Anaconda the Canadian snipers were flown back to Bagram Airfield. There they did a refit to fight and went out the next day on Operation Harpoon with their parent unit, 3 PPCLI, for five days. The Canadian snipers were well-respected and admired by the American units they worked with. According to Alex, “The 101<sup>st</sup> guys ... wanted us to stay out there. There was no problem with having us stick around. We'd still be out



Cpl. Lou Penney, 3 PPCLI BG

*Machine-gun crew from C Company, 3 PPCLI, cover a scout team as they head into a ravine in the Shah-i-Kot Valley. Hardy Canadians handled altitude, mission with typical aplomb.*

there if they hadn't brought us in. We were having a great time of it.”

An American general Alex talked to in Kandahar after Operation Anaconda was quite interested in how accurate the McMillan was and how it performed in battle. Alex is effusively laudatory about the weapon. “It's a great piece of kit. Accuracy — it's bang on. As soon as you get your dope — it's bang on.” When pressed to evaluate the McMillan, Alex commented that “at first the ammo wasn't that good, but we fixed that. There was a slight problem with the magazines. The magazines could be better. Other than that the weapon itself was working good. It didn't seem to be knocked off [the optics] from day one to the end of the operation. I carried it in a drag bag on

the back of my pack and it was always ‘max protected.’ For all the stuff we were doing it was right on all the time. There's no major adjustments that we can see.”

Alex, a bodybuilder with a solidly muscled physique, is 6 feet, 220 pounds. SOF wanted to know how the snipers coped with their soldier's load in the rugged Afghan mountains. “Honestly, we were low on food. Because of the situation out there, the birds couldn't get in because of the weather. As a team we

*The equipment of the day was the McMillan .50 tactical rifle, which Canuck snipers used to take-out targets at astounding ranges. Canadian-issue version features shorter bipods and other subtle modifications.*



McMillan Bros Rifle Co., Inc.



worked really well. I mean, yeah, there were a couple of guys out there going hungry, but every time we were asked to do something all three of us were 'carry on.' The terrain was desert, rocky, and rolling hills and, of course, the altitude; it made us tired, and the mountains, of course. Some guys were 'how do you carry that heavy pack' — you just gotta do it." According to Alex their rucksacks weighed approximately 100-110 pounds.

him, so that's what we were looking at." In addition to their normal webbing and sniping equipment the snipers were issued Blackhawk chest webbing (bought from unit funds) to carry eight extra magazines for their C-7s, plus extra pistol magazines.

"I was usually leading. Unless we were in a bad situation or in a valley or something. Usually I'd be up front with another guy and would set the pace because I had the heaviest ruck.

snipers bivouacking in the snow and ice with just ponchos or tarps in hasty shelters. They were all smiling. It wasn't that much of a challenge to the grunts from Alberta. "Some guys need all that Gore-tex stuff and we had stealth suits underneath, but sometimes you have to leave that nice comfortable stuff behind when you go on operations. You've got to carry that stuff. And you know what? You're not going to die. So, don't suffer — take care of yourself, but there are different ways of staying warm than carrying all that stuff."

On 9 March, a week after Operation Anaconda commenced, the 3PPCLI was ordered to clear the Whale's Back mountain on the western side of the Shah-i-Kot Valley of an estimated 60 to 100 enemy holdouts, dug-in or hiding in caves.

The 3PPCLI launched Operation Harpoon, a battalion-strength air-assault against the Whale's Back, shortly after first light (0730 hours local time) on 13 March. Inserting via CH-47 Chinook helicopter into a single-ship LZ at the northern end of the mountain, the Canadians' mission was to destroy all remaining Taliban and al-Qaeda on the Whale's Back and then search all detected caves and enemy fighting positions on the mountain. There were few enemy left on the Whale's Back, and the Canadians promptly engaged them with anti-tank rockets (the Canadians issue the LAW, TOW and Eryx) and small-arms fire, killing three. They searched more than 30 caves and captured tons of enemy weapons, equipment, and intelligence materials. They spent five days clearing enemy positions on the Whale's Back and finding large caches of ammunition and equipment.

During this operation, the 3PPCLI snipers continued their mission "to interdict enemy fighters and suppress any heavy-weapons positions." For their outstanding performance while in combat when attached to the Rakkasans [3rd Bde., 101st Airborne Division], the Canadian snipers have been recommended for the American Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

A sniping advocate, SOF Chief Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott was equipped with an M21 sniping rifle during a tour of duty with the 2nd Infantry Division (Korean DMZ). An account of his KNLA sniper training mission appeared in "Long Range Revenge," in January '97. ✖

***"The way the Americans treated us was great. Anything we needed, if it was in their power to get it to us, it was there."***

The snipers were carrying some heavy equipment: "We had our own 40-power Leupold spotting scope that our spotter used." They did everything they could to lighten their load and improve mobility. "We were the only Canadians who didn't wear helmets or flak jackets. We tried that during rehearsals but it did not work. It took two guys to lift my rucksack, so I could slide into it. The guys that lifted it asked us 'How are you guys going to carry that?' Well, we have to. The 'other guy' had a radio and extra ammo, and the third guy had an M203 with 33 rounds [40mm grenades] on

We had another guy covering our rear. So it was pretty much up to myself to set the pace." Alex's team spent the entire two weeks on foot except for one time when they got a ride on a John Deere ATV cargo carrier because his team was needed quickly somewhere else. "As a Canadian I'm not used to seeing that stuff — you know when a Chinook drops off a John Deere. The way the Americans treated us was great. It was just unreal; anything we needed, if it was in their power to get it to us, it was there."

The weather was subject to drastic change. Alex showed me photos of the



Canadian troops on Operation Anaconda patrol mountains east of Gardez, taking a breather every so often in the 3,000-meter altitude. Note standard-issue uniforms: Only Canadian snipers had desert cammies, which had been obtained from the Brits.

Cpl. Lou Penney, 3 PPCLI BG





AP Photo/Stephen Thorne

# Air Rescue In Afghanistan

BY LANCE M. BACON

**T**akhur Ghar Mountain was just another point on a military planner's map the night of 3 March 2002. But by daybreak on 4 March so many things had done terribly wrong.

A Navy SEAL had fallen out of a helicopter on an aborted insert. His buddies had gone in to get him, but met stiff resistance. Two MH-47 Chinooks, "Razor-1" and "Razor-2," rushed to their aid from Bagram Air Base. They approached shortly after daybreak, and Razor 1 was brought down by an enemy rocket-propelled grenade as the helicopter prepared to insert 10 Army Rangers and three Air Force special operators.

The Chinook's crews and passengers would spend the next 15 hours fighting for their lives atop that desolate, snow-covered mountain. Four fighter crews would take unprecedented risks to save them. One Air Force combat controller would pummel enemy reinforcements from his nearby observation point. Together, they would get the Americans off that mountain.

In the end, seven Americans would lose their lives — the deadliest day of combat for American forces since Mogadishu, Somalia in 1993.

But also in the end, several heroes would emerge ... during the battle of Roberts Ridge.

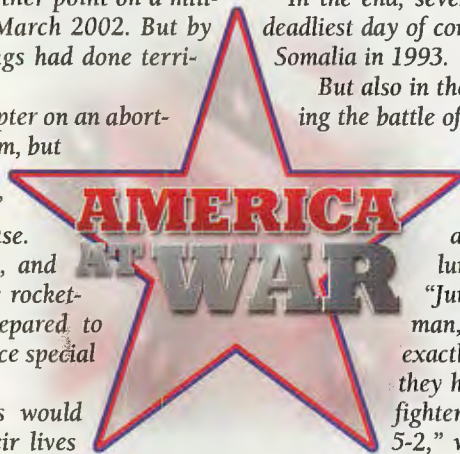
"We're a downed helicopter ... We're receiving enemy fire ..."

The combat controller's words were abrupt; tinged with panic. They caused a lump to form in the throat of Major Chris "Junior" Short. The F-15E pilot and his wingman, Captain Kirk "Panzer" Rieckhoff, knew exactly where the frantic airman was located — they had been there only 25 minutes earlier. The fighter jets, call signs "Twister 5-1" and "Twister 5-2," would be back in fewer than two minutes.

They hoped it would be soon enough.

Despite the commotion that surrounded Staff Sergeant Gabe Brown, the combat controller's voice was loud and distinct. "We have enemy troops 75 meters away ... I need guns only!"

The MH-47 Chinook had been no fewer than 15 feet off the





ground, about to insert its team of Army Rangers and Air Force special operators, when a rocket-propelled grenade had torn through its tail rotor and engine. The doomed bird, call sign "Razor 1," slammed into the rocky terrain with a metal-crunching thud. From a bunker just a stone's throw to the north, al-Qaeda forces pelted the helicopter's 21 passengers and crew members with small-arms fire and RPGs.

"We have dead and wounded!" Brown shouted into his tactical radio.

Short's heart began to race as the controller, call sign "Slick 0-1," talked the F-15E two-ship onto the target. It was a very precise target. It wasn't a tank or a truck. Not a building or a cave. It was a tree — one single pine tree.

Bewilderment still covered Rieckhoff's face when he recounted his target two months later. Though both Strike Eagles were fully loaded with 500 rounds each, their 20 mm multibarrel guns are designed to rip aircraft from the sky, not pick off bad guys on the ground. Or trees. In fact, no F-15E had ever used the gun in an emergency close-air support mission.

But Slick 0-1 was too close for bombs and he needed rounds on target. Quick.

Short's heart was now pounding as he absorbed his mission: Descend from a "medium altitude," enter the target area at roughly 575 mph, use his 20 mm cannon in a way its never before been used and hit one specific tree that sits only 250 feet from friendly forces.

Basically, that helicopter crew needed a nothing short of a miracle.

Just then, two miracles from the 335th Fighter Squadron came screaming down on their position.

### An Insert Gone Bad

The events that led to Razor 1's shoot-down started roughly four hours earlier, when another MH-47 Chinook fell prey to enemy fire.

American battle commanders on 4 March — already two days into what was supposed to be a 72-hour mission — sent a myriad of their best troops to the southern end of Shah-i-Kot Valley to silence the stiff resistance. Among them was a team of Navy SEALs, ordered to take position at "Objective Ginger."

A barrage of enemy fire tore through the SEALs' helicopter, call sign "Razor 3," as it approached Takhur Ghar Mountain at about 0300. The pilot instinctively jerked the helicopter up and away to make a hasty exit. In the commotion, Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts fell out of the Chinook.

The pilot set the damaged helicopter down 4 miles north. Its sister ship, call sign "Razor 4," arrived

45 minutes later. It took Razor 3's crew to a U.S. base at Gardez, 15 miles away. It then took the five SEALs and Technical Sgt. John Chapman, a combat controller, back to Ginger to get their buddy.

Battle leaders at the U.S. operations center at Baghrum Air Base used a Predator UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) to monitor Roberts' whereabouts, which they relayed to Razor 4. The SEALs and Chapman off-loaded under heavy enemy fire near where they believed the SEAL to be.

A quick-reaction force also boarded two more black MH-47s at Baghrum at approximately 0545. Technical Sgt. Keary Miller, a pararescue jumper with longer than 10 years in special tactics, headed the Combat Search and Rescue team. Brown and Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, a fellow pararescuer, joined Miller. They boarded Razor 1 along with eight crew members and 10 Army Rangers. Among the Rangers stood Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Vance, and enlisted terminal-attack controller, or ETAC.

As Razor 1 and Razor 2 lifted into the darkness, the SEAL team was fighting for survival. Roberts had been executed, and they were heavily outnumbered. They sent a call out for help. Short's F-15E two-ship answered the call.

### Strike Eagles On-Station

The Strike Eagles had launched from an undisclosed location no fewer than four hours earlier. They were working targets on the Whaleback, a ridgeline roughly 10 miles to the west, when "Mako 3-0" called for emergency close-air support.

Close-air was a popular commodity throughout Operation

Anaconda, especially since neither artillery nor armor assets were available. So popular that many fighters broke two steadfast rules: Two-ship formations broke into individual missions and pilots regularly went below their "bingo" line — the amount of fuel necessary to safely get them home.

Short had no idea that Mako 3-0 was a SEAL team searching for Roberts — the two-ship had no way of knowing those events had transpired. But Short knew Mako 3-0 was receiving heavy-mortar and machine-gun fire. The 13-year pilot had to decide whether to send both, one or none of his planes. There were many ground battles unfolding, practically all of which were asking for air-support, and his was the only fighter two-ship in the vicinity. To determine which ground controller had the greatest need, Short relied largely on their tone of voice.

"What we're hearing on the radio, I think you can characterize it as distress in

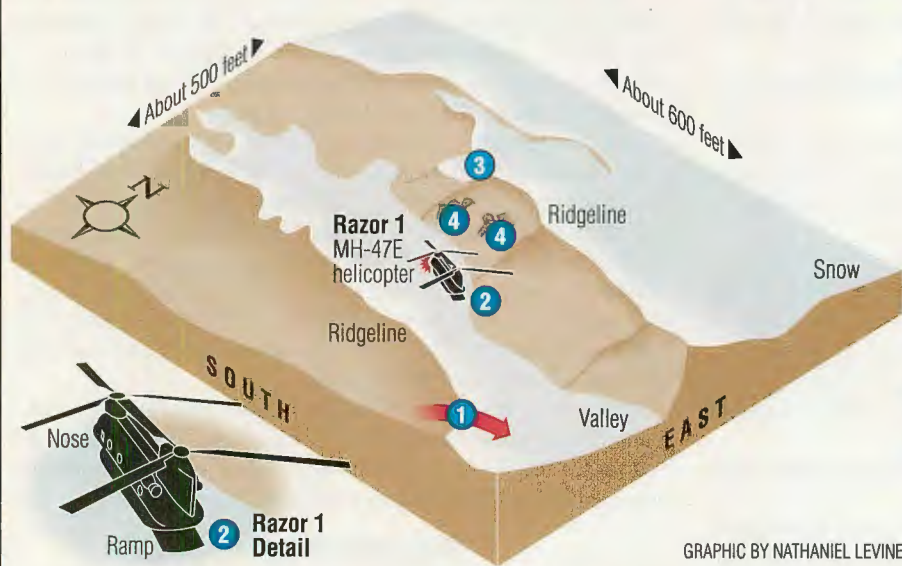


*Air Force Technical Sgt. Jim Hotaling sits in the Hindu Kush mountains days before the launch of Operation Anaconda. The combat controller was soon assigned to the Shah-i-Kot Valley as part of a coalition Special Forces team. On the morning of 4 March, an MH-47 Chinook was shot down 3 kilometers to his southwest. The helicopter carried 21 Americans, including Hotaling's good friend and fellow controller Air Force Staff Sgt. Gabe Brown. (opposite) Canadian troops crouch after departing a Chinook helicopter on the Tora Ghar Mountain deep in the Tora Bora Valley region of Afghanistan on 4 May 2002.*



# THE BATTLEGROUND

A look at the crash site of Razor 1, an MH-47E Chinook helicopter, high atop Takhur Ghar Mountain on the southern end of Shah-e-Kot Valley, Afghanistan.



GRAPHIC BY NATHANIEL LEVINE

- 1 Though its exact location is unknown, the six-man Navy SEAL team sent in to recover Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts is in this vicinity prior to the arrival of Razor 1. The team is heading east, away from heavy mortar and machine gun fire. Twister 5-1 and 5-2, two F-15Es, provide close-air support. With the SEALs is Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a combat controller. His body is later found about 300 feet from Razor 1.
- 2 The first rally point established after Razor 1 is shot down. Slick 0-1, Air Force Staff Sgt. Gabe Brown, remained here through the battle's first two hours.
- 3 The enemy bunker from which the U.S. forces drew most fire in the early hours of the battle.
- 4 Rangers establish two defensive positions behind rocks. Four Rangers are at each position. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Vance, the Rangers' enlisted terminal attack controller, is with the group on the left, at roughly 2 o'clock from the helicopter's nose.

the guy's voice," he said of Mako 3-0's call.

Though the whaleback targets were of strategic importance, that controller wasn't under fire. Short said the decision was easy — both Twister 5-1 and 5-2 headed east.

The battle's intensity was evident as the F-15Es arrived over what would later be named Roberts Ridge. Enemy mortar rounds, U.S. bombs and 105mm-howitzer fire from AC-130 gunships had scorched the snow in previous days, and black marks now littered the once-white mountaintop.

"Where the actual [enemy] mortar positions are when we first showed up, we don't know," said Lt. Col. Jim "Meat" Fairchild, Twister 5-1's weapons system officer. "We just laid into bombs 600 meters west of where [Mako 3-0] said he was."

Short said Mako 3-0 was running east and taking fire as he sent many of his transmissions. At one point, the ground con-

troller told Short "he has one KIA, two wounded." It is not clear whether the killed-in-action was Roberts or Chapman, who also lost his life that night. A source familiar with the battle said Mako 3-0 "absolutely was not" Chapman, whose job it would have been to call in close-air support.

A bad situation then took a turn for the worse. Both fighters were running low on fuel, and Mako 3-0 sent word that his batteries were fading. He also wanted to know the status of Razor. Short didn't know the quick-reaction force was en route, so he passed the information through an AWACS hovering nearby.

Short stayed on-station and dropped a second 500-pound laser-guided bomb when Twister 5-2 headed to the tanker. The tanker had positioned itself only 20 miles from the battlefield — they typically fly 100 to 150 miles away — and Rieckhoff took only half his fuel capacity so he could quickly get back in the fight.

He wouldn't get the chance. Word was sent that "other assets" were coming into the area, and the F-15E two-ship was told to return to the Whaleback. Or, as Fairchild put it, "We get kicked out of the area." It's evident by the sharpness in his voice that this was a hard pill to swallow.

Twister 5-1 broke contact, but kept his radio on Mako 3-0's frequency. Short arrived at the tanker as his wingman headed back to Mako 3-0's position. There was a 12-minute gap



Lance M. Bacon

*Staff Sgt. Gabe Brown, a combat controller for eight years, stands in front of the Combat Controller Memorial at Hurlbert Field, Fla. As part of Razor 1's combat search and rescue team, Brown provided close-air support for the MH-47 Chinook after it was shot down in Afghanistan on 4 March.*



in which neither Strike Eagle was in or near the target area. When Rieckhoff returned, he flew a holding pattern just east of the target area. But the battlefield had significantly changed.

Twister 5-2 radioed back to the lead: "Confirm you're bombing the ridgeline, the mountain peak that has the helicopter on it."

Short said those words hit him like a brick. "We were like 'No, we just dropped bombs there. There's no helicopter ... please tell me that!'"

### "Here We Go"

The Rangers and CSAR team inside Razor 1 prepared for a hot insertion just as the sunlight broke the majestic mountains. The most up-to-date information was passed on a grease board. A final weapons check was made. Frequencies were verified.

"The motivation was there," Miller said of his fellow special-tactics airmen. "I didn't have to give anybody any speeches. My team was focused."

Vance believes Razor 1 circled the landing zone at least twice before setting down. The Ranger ETAC was deployed and unavailable for comment. A copy of Vance's written account of the battle, given March 25 at Baghram, was obtained for this report.

The crew received a "one-minute call." The passengers unhooked their belts.

The transport flared at approximately 0620, then all hell broke loose. Al-Qaeda forces opened fire with a barrage of machine-gun and rocket-propelled-grenade fire. Miller said the bulk of the fire was directed at the front of the helo, but the cargo hold wasn't immune. Rounds easily penetrated the Chinook's thin skin — "ripping through the aircraft," as Brown described it. "It looked like confetti from the padding" being shot off the walls.

Miller said he saw one RPG, but doesn't doubt there were others. Brown said two or three RPGs hit from the front all the way down the bird's right side. Vance believes there were four.

One of those RPGs hit the tail rotor and engine, and the Chinook dropped at least 15 feet onto the mountain. Miller said no one was killed in the crash-landing, but the small-arms fire was taking its toll. Everyone now had one objective: Get out of that bullet magnet as fast as possible.

For some, it wasn't fast enough.

Army Sgt. Philip J. Svitak threw a blast out on his mini-gun to cover his fellow soldiers. Vance and Brown witnessed an RPG hit the helicopter where the front right-side gunner was located, killing the 31-year-old flight engineer. A

Ranger also was killed in that vicinity, though it is not clear whether the RPG or small-arms fire killed him.

As the soldiers and airmen rushed to exit, Brown ran past two Rangers lying facedown. Many of the survivors took cover behind a rock "to figure out what the hell was going on."

At that rally point, located just few meters off the helicopter's 5 o'clock, Brown and Miller made eye contact. "Here we go," the controller said. Miller gave him a nod.

Brown stayed at the rally point and started to establish



Lance M. Bacon

*Lt. Col. Jim "Meat" Fairchild was the weapons system officer on Twister 5-1, the flight lead on an F-15E two-ship that was first to provide close-air for Razor 1. (below) Maj. Chris "Junior" Short (left) and Capt. Kirk "Panzer" Rieckhoff piloted Twister 5-1 and Twister 5-2, respectively. The F-15E Strike Eagles provided the downed crew of Razor 1 close-air support in unprecedented ways, to include using their 20mm air-to-air cannons to hit an enemy bunker.*



Lance M. Bacon



communications. He brought up line-of-sight communications and started searching for airborne platforms, but had no luck. Neither frequency given the night before seemed to work. Brown, who has a year and a half of controller schooling and seven years on the job, quickly began to reconfigure his PRC-117F radio for long-range communications, which required some antenna-swapping.

As the combat controller patched up the radio, Miller, Cunningham and the aircrew medic began to patch-up the wounded. The trio moved the casualties inside the helicopter. There already were four dead: the two at the door gunner's position and two lying at the ramp. There also were three litter patients: both pilots and the left-doorgunner, who was shot in the leg.

The pilots didn't fare as well. An RPG tore through the cockpit, seriously wounding both aviators.

Both pilots had climbed out of the cockpit and fallen into the knee-high snow below. Miller ran out the back ramp and uphill the length of the helicopter to get to the left-side pilot. A round had smashed the pilot's thighbone.

"He was alert, and started talking after I got the bleeding stopped," Miller said. "I had him watching for bad guys when my head was down and I was doing my work."

Then came the hard part. Miller placed a tourniquet on the pilot, grabbed the officer's body armor and with the help of another aircrew member, dragged him through the deep snow and into the downed bird. Though the pilot pushed "with his good leg," it still took a few minutes to get him inside.

Miller does not know how the right-side pilot got into the

helicopter, but said the officer "was in even worse shape and suffered from far greater blood loss." He had a silver-dollar-sized hole in his wrist and a deep wound to his thigh.

Some of the Rangers were injured, as well. A few had taken shrapnel and one had been shot in the hand. Vance said the platoon leader, Capt. Nathan Self, had "a pretty good chunk" of shrapnel in his leg. Despite these injuries, no Ranger stopped for medical care. And Miller wasn't offended.

"The Rangers did it awesome," he said. "They drew a lot of fire, which kept it off us."

The soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment, joined by a handful of aircrew members, had charged up the hill and established two positions roughly 50 meters from the enemy bunker. Vance said he passed at least one dead guerrilla on his way up the hill. Large rocks provided cover for four men at each position. The enemy fire was largely concentrated on their positions, but the Rangers were giving what they got.

The medical team had the patients "packaged," or ready to move, within 45 minutes. Things were going well inside the helicopter. Things were pretty rough outside.

The Ranger's firefight was depleting their ammo supply. Though it hadn't reached dangerous levels, Miller knew "we had to take that hill." The pararescueman and an aircrew member took bullets and 40 mm grenades off the dead and wounded and rushed them to the soldiers.

"The way they went across open danger areas several times to get more bullets and to assist was incredible," Brown said.

### Watching, Waiting

Almost within spitting distance to the east, Twister 5-2 maintained his holding pattern and his eyes on the helicopter. Short quickly pulled his F-15E off the tanker and headed to his wingman's position. Though they had been

*Soldiers from Alpha, 101st Airborne Division, having just arrived Tuesday, 2 April 2002, in the departing Chinook helicopter, take part in Operation "Mountain Lion," in the Zhawar Kili mountain complex, Paktia province, eastern Afghanistan.*

AP Photo/Adam Butler







“kicked out of the area,” both Strike Eagles had kept their targeting pods in Mako 3-0’s vicinity. Through the pod, “we see one helicopter down, we see one leaving the target area,” said Fairchild, Twister 5-1’s weapons system officer.

The Strike Eagles contacted Mako 3-0 for confirmation, but the ground controller reported there were “no friendlies on top of the mountain.” Though Fairchild has no way of knowing for certain, he believes Mako 3-0 had egressed far enough to the east that he was not in view of the mountaintop where the helicopter sat.

The fighter jets still had no idea the Chinook had been shot down. There was no radio chatter to the contrary.

U.S. Central Command, which has rule over Operation Anaconda, admitted communication problems plagued the battle atop Takhur Ghar mountain. Reconnaissance flights failed to detect manned al-Qaeda positions, radio frequencies were either incorrect or not used and ground troops had difficulty contacting commanders and air support assets — most notably, the F-15E two-ship flying near the downed Chinook.

In fact, the next transmission again directed the F-15Es to return to the Whaleback.

The Strike Eagles were no happier with this order than the last time it was received. They admittedly didn’t know Razor 1 had been shot down. But they did know the helicopter had, for at least 25 minutes, sat on a mountain littered with al-Qaeda. And they knew Mako 3-0, who was on that same mountain, had been without air-support for 37 minutes.

But, for whatever reason, they were ordered to leave. They were to support a controller who wasn’t under fire; they were to hit mortar teams when they popped out of the safety of their caves.

Asked how that order made him feel, the soft-spoken Short drew a deep breath, opened his mouth, and then pressed his lips tight. After a pause, he shook his head and

*United States Army soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division slay low as dust and pebbles fly when an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter lifts off from the rocky terrain, 13 March 2002 as the U.S. Army sends in troops to route-out Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters from the rough terrain. Hundreds on American and Canadian troops were lifted into the mountainous region at high-altitude to search for and destroy any enemy they encountered.*

shrugged his shoulders. “I don’t know,” he said.

Though it was against their will, the fighter jets broke contact and started to work targets on the Whaleback.

Technical Sgt. Jim Hotaling wasn’t going anywhere. The 10-year combat controller was monitoring the situation from his perch 3 kilometers to the southwest. He was part of a coalition Special Forces team positioned on a hillside observation post, and had a commanding view of the mountain.

And he had his hands full.

Soldiers from Task Force Rakkassan had been pinned-down near his location the day and night prior. He was handling battles to his south, to his north, and was lending aid to Mako 3-0 when he got word a helicopter has gone down.

“I wasn’t as shocked as most people would think,” he said. “This is just one more fight.”

It was just another fight — until he heard the controller’s voice.

“Then I knew it was one of my own,” Hotaling said. “And that’s when it does make a difference, personally. I had instant voice-recognition. It was go-time.”

The two controllers discussed the battle during an interview at Hurlburt Field, Fla., where Air Force Special Operations Command is headquartered. Watching the two interact, it was easy to see why Hotaling felt it was “go-time.” They’ve known each other for “a very long time,” and spent

*Continued on page 80*



# BRAVO TWO ZERO:

# THE MOVIE

REVIEWED BY  
DANA DRENKOWSKI

# T

his movie received little publicity before the events of 11 September 2001. In fact, I happened to find it by accident while browsing through my local video rental store.

Movies about the military, especially ones extolling the heroism and extraordinary sacrifice of ordinary soldiers, receive short shrift from Hollywood's management and the leftist critics. Most in the movie-making industry shirked their obligation when their nation called for service in Vietnam. Thus, there is little inclination amongst those of the chattering classes to promote those who are ready to give all for others.

And when Hollywood does get the heroism down pat, the story is subverted by other agendas, as in *Pearl Harbor*, where the amazing efforts of two fighter pilots (who actually got their planes airborne and took on the entire Japanese force by themselves during the infamous attack) were reduced to a sappy love story; a love story in which some critics properly noted that the movie was really about a romance with something *Big* happening behind the love triangle.

Sort of like the 1997 movie *Titanic*, where two lovers met and oh, by the way, some *Big* ship sank in really cold water somewhere in the Atlantic.

*Bravo Two Zero* is one great war movie, which is virtually unheard of. It is available in video stores and is well worth the effort to find and rent.

Those familiar with Special Operations and, in particular, those who know of the exploits of the British Special Air Service (SAS) have heard of Andy McNab's book about the mission of Bravo Two Zero in the Gulf War.

It is a story of achievement and tragedy almost beyond human capability, yet it is truer than Hollywood's *Saving Private Ryan*.

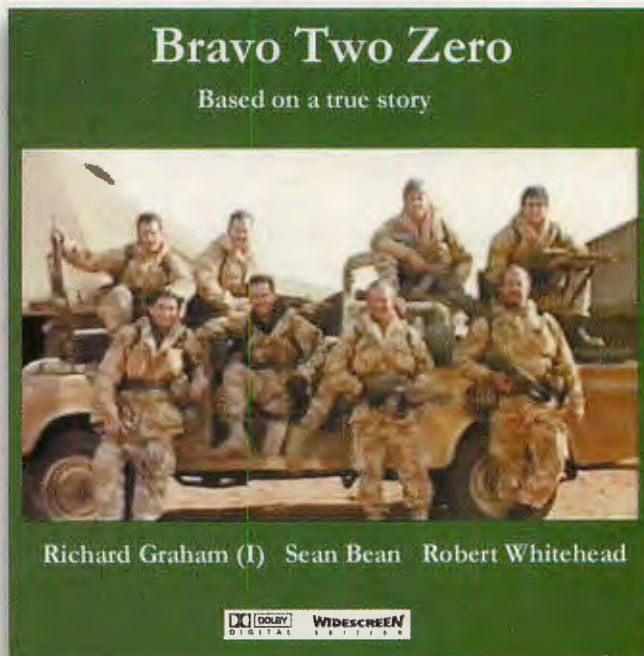
For those who don't know, "Bravo 2-0" was the call sign of an eight-man SAS element to find and destroy — or target for destruction by aircraft — Saddam Hussein's Scud missiles in Iraq. Seven SAS troopers, commanded by Sergeant Andy McNab, were inserted by chopper into Central Iraq to locate the Scuds. Their packs were loaded with more than 200

pounds of supplies — per man — including ammo, M66 rockets, food, water, and other gear.

The men had trained together for years as a tight group for various SpecOps missions. They were friends and combat buddies, faithful to their country and to each other. Men carried either the M-203 (M-16s with 40mm grenade launcher attached under the barrel) or the FN Minimi .223 machine guns, both of which are standard U.S. military weapons. Several had pistols for last-ditch protection.

Bravo 2-0 personnel, and their leader Andy McNab, discovered upon landing that the terrain was even more barren and flat than anticipated, leaving them little to hide in, or behind, while conducting their armed-reconnaissance mission.

*Bravo Two Zero*; produced by BBC and Anant Singh; directed by Tom Clegg; starring Sean Bean, Steve Nicolson, Rick Warden, Richard Graham, and Ian Curtis; released in 2001; running time 121 minutes.





They were discovered during the early afternoon of their first day by a shepherd boy, who reported their position to Iraqi units only a few hundred yards away. Andy's troops were in the open, with six hours of daylight remaining — the worst possible scenario for a small recon patrol trying to stay undetected — and alive — behind enemy lines.

Two Iraqi armored vehicles and at minimum a reinforced platoon attacked McNab's team. Andy and his men shot-up the armor with their shoulder-fired rockets and plunged with ferocity directly into the enemy platoon — Bravo 2-0's eight men against 40-50 enemy infantry!

Undoubtedly under Divine protection, they escaped and began their odyssey of survival, as they ran and fought, eventually dropping their heavy packs as they struggled to remain ahead of oncoming Iraqi soldiers. Communication problems kept the Allies from knowing what happened, or where to extract the patrol, when it was apparent something had gone terribly wrong.

Three men separated from the other five during the first night of confused fighting and running; one was killed, another captured and the other — the only one of the entire patrol — escaped.

Andy McNab led the rest on a long, fighting retreat through Iraq, trying to reach "friendly" Syrian lines more than 150 miles distant.

Weather was the worst it had been in nearly 30 years. The SAS contingent was lightly dressed; all their warmer gear when they abandoned their packs, operated entirely on the equipment and supplies left on their web gear. They suffered greatly from frostbite and the cold, as snow, sleet and rain hampered their epic trek across Iraq. They made additional contact with Iraqi units during their escape, and at one time captured, of all things, a passing taxi for transportation. The team shot its way through several road-blocks and blocking forces lurking along their line of flight.

One SAS team member suffered near-fatal hypothermia. He and the others, including Andy, were captured, most within 1 mile of the border.

Then began another survival story, in which the SAS captives showed as much grit as any men could be expected to have.

For eight days, they were brutally tortured and beaten. Finally, they gave up, giving one cover story, then another, as the torture resulted in permanent damage to most of the captives.

Their second cover story, however, held, and they were eventually returned home three weeks later, after the war with Iraq ended.

The movie was filmed in South Africa, using authentic Soviet equipment and tactics such as were used against Andy and his seven buddies.

What made the movie stand head-and-shoulders above even the other two recent great war movies, *Black Hawk Down* and *We Were Soldiers*, was that trained soldiers will recognize the training and tactics used in combat. None of the usual, "Let's all stand up and attack at once, firing from the hip!" nonsense.

When McNab's troopers attacked, it was with men shooting from fixed positions providing cover-fire as two of their comrades leap-frogged to take firing positions farther ahead.

As soon as they were down and ready, the squad leader (Andy) would signal and another pair would jump up and attack while their buddies provided cover fire.

When they rounded a corner or entered a new area, each man would take responsibility for his area of coverage. The highly trained, professional SAS men talked throughout the battles as the men advised of their status, of the enemy's positions and movements, and of the next move.

When it was time to prepare for a new movement, the leader would signal for all to drop their magazines — while still under fire — to load fresh ones, so that all would be ready with full-capacities at the same time.

The men fired on full-auto at times, but usually used "double taps," semi-auto, to hit aimed targets; no "spray and pray" as is so often seen in movies, often called for by directors who have never themselves seen infantry operations. Those with the machine guns (FN Minimis) fired short bursts. Controlled, aimed, semi-auto fire wins battles, all things being equal.

In the usual Hollywood battles, both sides would run into each other with all soldiers firing full-auto from the hip. The good guys in those Hollywood misinterpretations of real combat would have the good guys killing 10 times as many as the bad guys, with no understanding of why U.S., Israeli, British and other highly trained soldiers really manage to take out so many more than the enemies of those countries do.

*Bravo Two Zero* clearly shows that tight, disciplined fire-and-maneuver tactics lead to those unbalanced kill-ratios. It is entirely believable to see SAS men shooting aimed-fire into groups of panicked and poorly trained bad guys who are firing wildly on full-auto.

Andy McNab was the Technical Advisor during the shooting of *Bravo Two Zero*, and there is no doubt his presence made it authentic.

Moviegoers, both veterans and nonvets, can easily see why trained soldiers with practiced tactics can, and will, prevail against

enemy units with superior numbers, lousy training and desperation Russian tactics, which include nonaimed full-auto fire from their AKs as they advance. Those who have faced such tactics can confirm that soldiers who aim and fire weapons on semi-auto against Russian-trained soldiers will kill five to 10 times their number in each engagement.

In fact, Andy was told later that his eight men accounted for more than 250 Iraqi casualties, a 30-1 ratio. Had the three SAS troopers who disappeared been counted as being alive/bodies not recovered, the ratio climbs to 80-1.

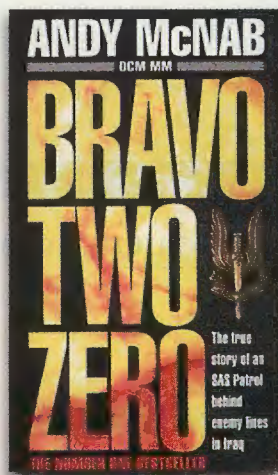
Remember, many of those Iraqi losses were sustained by troops using armor for cover against eight SAS troopers who used only shoulder-fired weapons, and pistols, against cannons and heavy machine guns!

*Bravo Two Zero*, the video/movie, should stand with *Black Hawk Down* and *We Were Soldiers* as one of the three best combat movies since the Vietnam War.

Rent it. If you are a soldier, buy it to replay for lessons on fighting, discipline, tactics, survival, improvisation, and resisting while captured.

You won't regret it — but you might if you do not learn the lessons the SAS has to offer.

*Dana Drenkowski is a U.S. Air Force Academy grad who flew F-4s and B-52s in Vietnam.* ✕







courtesy Colombian National Police

EXCLUSIVE TO SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

THE **WOUND**  
THAT WON'T STOP  
**bleeding**

A Disaster In Our Own Backyard

BY MAJOR BRUCE H. "DOC" NORTON, USMC (RET.)



This is the first in a series of articles on current National Security Affairs.

### The Players

**T**he Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (F.A.R.C.), with 20,000 fighters, the National Liberation Army (E.L.N.) with about 5,000 gunmen and the United Self Defense Forces (A.U.C.) with an estimated 14,000 soldiers are at war with the Colombian government ... and so far, they are NOT losing.

All three of these armed groups are on the U.S. list of International Terrorist Organizations (I.T.O.s) and yet, our State Department has even conducted secret negotiations with the F.A.R.C. in clear violation of a long-standing U.S. policy "NOT" to negotiate with terrorists. Confused? You should be.

Our own diplomats were meeting with F.A.R.C. terrorists who today have kidnapped and murdered 12 American citizens. And Bill Clinton allowed it.

One of the negotiators, State Department staffer Phil Chicola, was even being considered for a State Department Ambassadorship, until Congressmen Bob Barr (R.- Ga.), Dan Burton (R. - Ind.) and Ben Gilman (R. - N.Y.) got wind of it, and exposed the scam. Chicola's nomination was killed by these three Congressional Republicans.

"One of the big reasons the F.A.R.C. is so powerful today is because both the Pastrana government and the fools in our State Department have ignored the criminal and terrorist threats F.A.R.C. has posed in the past decade. When we talk about intelligence failures, Colombia will be at the top of the list. When we talk about policy failures, our so-called "diplomats" are responsible!" says a retired DEA Agent.

Recent revelations on Capitol Hill show that the F.A.R.C. has been greatly aided by I.R.A. explosives experts. In the past few years the results have been very deadly, as evidenced by the brutal massacre and carnage in Bojaya, in May. Today, many of our diplomats in Washington, D.C. and in Bogota don't want this embarrassing information on their incompetence to surface. "Now, these terrorists have the upper hand and the U.S. taxpayer is footing the bill!" says Rep. Barr.

Colombia's hard-line candidate, Alvaro Uribe, won the presidential election by a land-

slide on 26 May 2002. But before that election took place, the violence exploded once again in this Andean nation. It's a cycle of violence that is repeating itself every day and, unfortunately, ... with Uribe's election it appears that it will only get worse.

"Colombia is the most violent country in the Western Hemisphere and that violence is spreading into Venezuela, Panama, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru ... it's a wound that just won't stop bleeding," says Congressman Bob Barr (four-term Republican of Georgia), who has visited the front lines of this Andean country. "The Colombian National Police have had over 5,000 cops killed fighting our drug war in the past decade and they're fighting for their lives every day!" continues Barr, who has actually gone on missions with our D.E.A. agents and these Colombian cops, and knows what he's talking about.

In May, Colombian terrorists conducted dozens of well-coordinated attacks throughout the country, killing more than 500 people. In an assault on the northwest jungle town of Bojaya, 121 innocent civilians were killed (45 of whom were children) when a church was repeatedly bombed with crude, but effective, gas cylinder mortars. This clearly reminded the United States that Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and the Middle East weren't the only conflicts to be watching. Consider that in the first six months of the year, more than 2,000 Colombians were killed in the growing drug-fueled violence (more than double the number killed in Israel during the same period ... with little notice by the world press.)

Since January, more than 25% of the power and electricity in the country has been shut-off due to terrorist bombings. Terrorists assassinated the Bishop of Cali and a popular senator; they killed more than 300 policemen and soldiers, took more than a dozen senators and congressmen hostage and murdered 19 mayors. Couple this with the growing disaster in Venezuela and we've got a regional explosion on our hands. And remember, the network news couldn't get away from the Middle East to portray the disaster in our own backyard.

Congressman Barr is the Vice Chairman of the powerful House Government Reform Committee, a Subcommittee Chairman on the Judiciary Committee and he has been a leader in the House Speaker's Drug Task Force. Barr has been at the point of the spear of the international war on drugs, and what he's seen in Colombia, both from the Pastrana government and from our own State Department, is not encouraging. With the election of the tough-talking Alvaro Uribe,



**Congressman Bob Barr (R.-Ga.) and Lt. Col. Balthazar, of the Colombian Antinarcotics Police in a remote jungle cocaine lab. U.S. Embassy officials attempted to dissuade the lawmaker from visiting high-risk areas, but failed.**

courtesy office of Congressman Bob Barr





*(left) R. Rand Beers, the State Department official who is responsible for international law enforcement and counternarcotics matters. Beers, a Clinton-era appointee, is responsible for the already-failed policies in fighting drugs in Colombia and the Andean region.*

*(right) Ambassador Anne Patterson has been in charge of the United States mission to Colombia since July 2000, when she was appointed by Bill Clinton. "The track record under her tenure has been absolutely disastrous," says a retired DEA agent who served in Bogota.*



and despite what the U.S. Embassy in Bogota says: An all-out war appears to be in Colombia's future.

Many think our State Department needs a wake-up call on Colombia.

### **A Failed Plan – On Top Of A Failed Government**

In the past year and a half, the Bush Administration, already stuck with Clinton's "Plan Colombia", has nudged, pushed, pulled, and prodded the pathetically failed government of President Andres Pastrana to crack down on murderous narcoguerrillas, paramilitaries and narcotraffickers who are currently washing Colombia in it's own blood. Most Colombians believe Andres Pastrana, a former television anchorman and sometime journalist, has been an excellent spinmeister but a total failure as a leader. The dreadful results with his so-called three year "peace process" confirm it.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Embassy gave him billions in aid, but really didn't expect him to do anything against drugs and terrorism. This is the biggest problem in the U.S. relationship with Colombia. "Our State Department is not reliable or accountable in the war on drugs in Colombia, and it's because of the people at the U.S. Embassy who are assigned to carry out these duties ... but don't! Let's get them the hell out of the military assistance role, now," says another retired DEA agent who had served in Bogota.

With well over two billion dollars in the U.S. taxpayer's investment made in "Plan Colombia", the Pastrana administration has been woefully short on action. Some U.S. lawmakers are calling it a total failure.

Colombia today, with higher than 24% unemployment; the largest terrorist army in our hemisphere; bombs exploding everywhere; congressmen and senators held hostage and killed; and locked in the worst econom-

ic recession in its history; needs help! "The Pastrana gang has absolutely nothing to brag about, except getting our money!" declares the DEA agent.

However, on our side, with a "U.S. Embassy that can't seem to get *anything* to work ... our taxpayer's dollars have continued to go "south" ... both literally and figuratively," says Congressman Barr. Many lawmakers on Capitol Hill think it's time to take a closer look at what our policies are and what the U.S. Ambassador is really doing in Bogota.

"With two million dollars of antinarcotics funds now "missing" from the Embassy, lets review the failed policies and take a look at the competency of these State Dept. employees," continues Barr. Competency is a huge question here, particularly when these so-called antinarcotics assistance "EXPERTS" were "visa-stampers" just weeks before assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota.

The Director of the Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement: Rand Beers has been the man making the wasteful and short-sighted decisions on U.S. assistance to Colombia. He is a perfect example of how the Clinton White House looked at the drug war and terrorism in Colombia.

However, in the future, ignoring the situation will be unavoidable when bodybags with U.S. personnel return from Colombia. "It will be too late, but perhaps Mr. Beers will have some answers ... then. These drug-funded terrorists have killed a dozen American citizens and I think it's high time that we take some terror ... to the terrorists!" declares the Georgia Republican.

### **A Dozen Reasons Why**

On 25 March, it was revealed in a *Washington Post* article, by Robert D. Novak, that two more American citizens murdered by FARC terrorists in Cali, Colombia. This brings the toll of U.S. citizens murdered



Colombian Ministry of Defense

*Colombian National Police arrested three Irish Nationals in Colombia in August 2001 and charged them with aiding the F.A.R.C. in it's terrorist campaign. U.S. and Colombian law enforcement experts expect this case to prove that these international terrorist organizations are in Colombia bigtime.*



by terrorists to 12, in just the past five years.

Here are a dozen reasons why we should be at war with narcoterrorism in our own hemisphere. Our State Department has generally ignored it," contends Retired Army Special Forces Reserve Major Andy Messing, of the Washington, D.C.-based National Defense Council Foundation (N.D.C.F.). Other startling facts revealed by the N.D.C.F. show that in the past decade, 77 Americans have been taken hostage by narcoguerrillas in Colombia. Armed with these facts, Congressman Barr contends that, "This is terrorism just like what we saw on 9-11. The truth is, few Americans know about it, and the so-called "mainstream media" have ignored the fact that a dozen Americans have been murdered by Colombian terrorists with no U.S. response at all." Our retired D.E.A. agent is adamant when he says, "This only invites more acts of terrorism by these bad actors on the estimated 30,000 Americans in Colombia today."

"Getting the bureaucrats in the State Department to follow through with what they promise Congress, is a real challenge," Barr continued. The State Department is still full of Clinton-era appointees who can't seem to get the job done in getting assistance down-range or dealing with facts on Colombia.

The emerging problem with accountability in the State Department reminds us of what happened in Vietnam in 1964, and we all know how that turned out.

Barr's knowledge of the region and his personal relations with trusted Colombian officials, has at times, found him at odds with the so-called "experts" in the State Department. Barr, a former C.I.A. intelligence officer, has no illusions about the damage done by eight years of a Bill Clinton Administration on the war on drugs. (You will remember that Bob Barr was one of the Congressional leaders in the impeachment of Bill Clinton in 1999.)

### Trusted Allies

Barr's longtime good friend is General Rosso Jose Serrano, the legendary Colombian Cop who destroyed the Medellin



courtesy Colombian National Police

*Colombian National Police, DEA and ATF special agents in the northeastern city of Cucuta inspecting a large weapons shipment coming from Venezuela. The 140 M-16s came through Venezuela from Nicaragua.*

and Cali Drug cartels in the early 1990s. General Serrano was responsible for hunting down the notorious Medellin drug kingpin, Pablo Escobar, and bringing him to final justice on the rooftop of a Medellin safehouse. In recognition of these and other lesser known missions, Barr, along with Republican stalwarts, Dan Burton (R.- Ind.), Ben Gilman (R.- N.Y.), Mark Souder (R. - Ind.), Asa Hutchinson (R. - Ark.) (currently the Administrator of DEA), Cass Ballenger (R. - N.C.) and Speaker of the House, J. Dennis Hastert (R. - Ill.) have been staunch advocates of helping our DEA and our allies in Colombia. The long and close relationship between Congress and Gen.Serrano has been quietly fostered over the years by the DEA, especially during the Clinton years. It

*Continued on page 78*

On 14 February 1997, The N.D.C.F - Colombia Report was submitted to Congress by Major Andy Messing, USAR (Special Forces) (Ret.). It clearly predicted that American citizens would be targeted by these terrorists in the future. Among other issues it reported was that "four U.S. citizens were currently being held hostage and that these narco-guerrillas will kill their hostages." Since that explosive

**a warning ... ignored**

report hit Congress, "The rest,"(sorry to say), "is history." The State Dept. denounced the report and the then, U.S. Ambassador to Bogota, Myles Frechette, totally dismissed it. However, Messing's report actually pushed the State Department to have these narco-guerrilla groups put on the list of International Terrorist Organizations in October 1997, a full three years and 12 dead Americans after the first request by N.D.C.F. "The Clinton administration was asleep at the switch on Colombia," contends Messing.

Today, the report seems strangely prophetic!

Unfortunately, it wasn't until April of this year, that members of these I.T.O.s. have ever been indicted for kidnapping or killing Americans. "It took years and years to push the Clinton Justice and State Departments to finally recognize these obvious facts," states Messing. In his March article, Robert D. Novak went on to emphasize that the murder of American citizens in Colombia has been treated with "secrecy and inattention" by the U.S. Ambassador in Bogota. Oddly enough, this highly inflammatory claim by Novak drew no response from the State Department or the U.S. Ambassador in Bogota. One now, has to ask "Why?"

"The article was painfully accurate," declares Maj. Messing. Now, Rep. Barr is demanding a Congressional hearing into drug-funded terrorism in Colombia and how it affects the United States. "We can only think that perhaps Mr. Rand Beers and Ambassador Patterson will become apologists for a terribly flawed Clinton-era policy on terrorism and drugs at that hearing; they'll have plenty of company at the State Department covering their tracks," stated our retired D.E.A. agent from Bogota. — B.H.N.



# Sniper

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# IN THE Sudan

BY MIKE EVERYMAN  
PHOTOS COURTESY AUTHOR

I woke up with a rat sitting on my left thigh. I jerked my knee upright and dimly saw his furry body flip into the air and arc off my bunk. I rolled out of my mosquito net and swept with my Surefire G-2 light in my left hand, scanning for my friendly rat while holding my Mantrack 2 knife in my right. The previous night I had used the knife with great success, stabbing a hissing cockroach. I knew it was a

“Hisser” because of the sound it made when I stuck it.

After a cursory search around the mud hut, or *pyute*, as it's known in Sudanese vernacular, I began to wonder whether the malaria medicine was causing me to have weird dreams. Nightmares are a well-known side effect of Mefloquine. As I lifted my mosquito net to get back in the rack, I hit it with a beam of light, and there was my buck-toothed, beady-eyed

friend, the rat. After twitching his whiskers at me, he ran out of the net and up the mud wall. I checked my bag of rice to see if he had been plundering it and, sure enough, he had taken time out of his busy schedule to leave a few rat turds in it. This is typical late-night entertainment in New Sudan.

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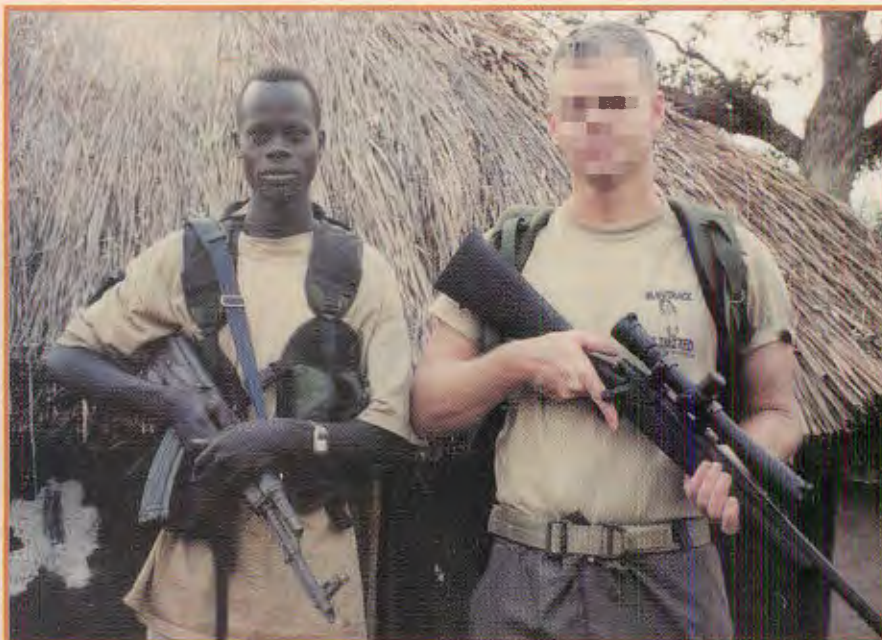
*SPLA troops pose with captured AA gun: As is typical in guerrilla wars, the enemy is often the most reliable source of supply.*





The next morning I staggered out of bed at 0600 when I heard Myun, my spotter and bodyguard, double-stamp his feet to announce his presence. This is the magic morning hour, when the mosquitoes bed-down for the day, and just before the flies take over the airways. There is no electricity or running water in New Sudan, and this is the traditional time to use the "shit pit," but the other members of the garrison will not use it until I have, as a gesture of respect, so I have to at least make a perfunctory visit in order for the rest of the camp to begin their morning ablutions.

We are near the town of Laso on the border of Congo and New Sudan, where the Institute of Strategic Studies is located. I am teaching the MSQ, or "Mantrack/Sniper Qualifying" course for SPLA (Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army) soldiers to earn the Mantrack/Sniper designation. There are more than 40 students in this class, hand-picked from the cream of Military Intelligence, and all of them will be instrumental in the coming offensives. Those who graduate this course, however, will be the two- and four-man special operations teams who will be responsible for sniping, sabotage, assassination, and prisoner-snatch missions. Some will work with me, and others will be sent to different commands. Although the course curriculum is the most grueling and demanding in the SPLA, this is a welcome break from the fighting for this highly experienced, highly motivated group of soldiers. On the average, each has more than eight years of combat experience. Nearly all of them suffer from malaria. In New Sudan, about the only



*Sgt. Myun, author's trusted bodyguard/spotter, and author at quarters in instructor's section at the War Institute. Author holds Remington Tactical Carbine in 7.62x51.*

people who don't have malaria are those afflicted with sickle-cell anemia. It is interesting to note that what we in the West consider to be key elements in the selection process for elite units, such as extreme food- and sleep-deprivation, and seemingly endless forced-marches over rugged terrain, are simply day-to-day conditions for the SPLA guerrilla. All members of this class are used to foraging and minimal rations, no food at all for days at a time, and up to three-day troop movements in combat, without sleep.

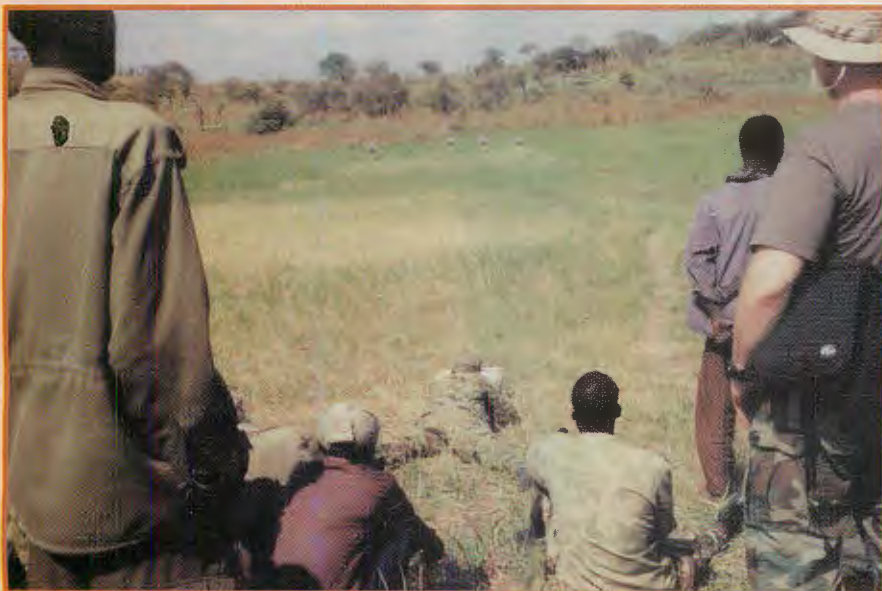
#### **Estranged, Divorce Pending**

New Sudan, although not internationally recognized as a Sovereign

Nation, is nevertheless independent from Islamic Sudan, with which it has been at war since the early 1980s. There have been only short periods of peace since the mid 1950s, making it the longest continuous war on the African Continent. New Sudan is populated primarily by Christians but also has a large minority population of Animists and Muslims, all of whom practice their religions openly and freely. Horror stories among the New Sudanese concerning atrocities visited upon them by the NIF (National Islamic Front) are ubiquitous, and run the gamut of torture, rape, mutilation and slavery. Although Sudan is the largest country in Africa and the war has claimed more than 2 million lives, the conflict remains little-known and often misunderstood in the United States. After the tragedy of 11 September 2001, the American people are just now beginning to focus attention on Osama bin Laden's old hometown, Khartoum, and its Islamic radicalism.

Meanwhile, the war for Christian independence rages on in the south, and famine, filth and pandemic disease follow with it. Along the contested areas, the numbers of civilian amputees are huge, where Chinese Type 72 and Italian V69 bounding fragmentation grenades have taken lives, limbs and innocence from the local children.

In the town of Yei, I once met a pleasant Seventh Day Adventist Missionary who waxed effulgent about how much he and his wife loved it



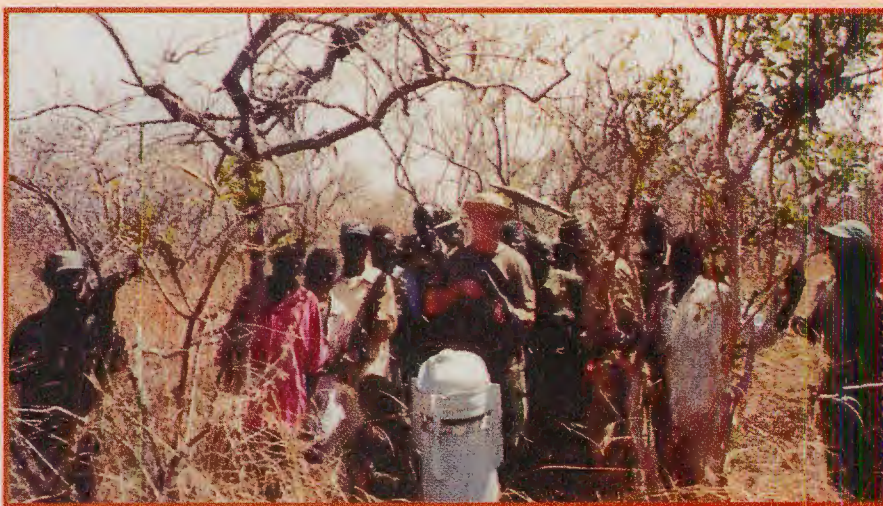
*Marksmanship training, as part of the Mantrack Sniper Qualification Course.*



there. I wanted to ask him if he were insane. When he asked me what I was doing there (I'm not usually openly armed in Yei) I didn't think it was good op-sec to tell him I was there to help kill Muslim soldiers, so I said I was just touring the countryside and moved on. Meanwhile, every SPLA soldier in town, which was two-thirds of the adult male population, knew exactly who I was and what I was doing there. An example of how out-of-touch the NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) usually are is that, although they intend only the best, they are apt to give out "food" without teaching anyone how to fish.

Because Dragunovs, Enfields, and bolt-action sporting rifles are in short supply, we focus on marksmanship and ballistics of the AK47 and AKM, filling in the gaps with personal instruction on other sniper weapons systems as they become available. Compared to his Western counterpart, the SPLA mantrack/sniper is considerably behind in marksmanship, due to a paucity of quality sniper weapons and match-grade ammunition for training purposes. Not surprisingly, however, he excels in both field-craft and tactics, areas where he spends proportionately greater amounts of time in training. Because candidates are hand-picked from among the SPLA soldiers with the most outstanding combat records, he is, of course, highly experienced in real-world ops.

Although their enemy is much better equipped, kill ratios are very high for the SPLA in general but particularly so for the MSTs (Mantrack-Sniper Teams).



*UXO courtesy of Antonovs that fly out of Juba: When Juba is liberated, then the bombers will have to fly from Khartoum with a 40-minute — as opposed to four-hour — window over the target.*

Their hit and run tactics have made them the most feared elements of the SPLA, and they have no illusions about their fate if captured, so surrender is never an option for them.

#### **Despicable Despots**

Islamic marauders from the north commit wholesale slaughter when they infiltrate into the south, sparing only those women and children that they take as slaves. The NIF's scorched-earth policy particularly applies to those areas around the oilfields in the south, where Khartoum hopes to purge the area of South Sudanese so that they may invite more oil companies in to increase petroleum production and thereby dramatically increase funding for the war against the SPLA and neighboring civilians. The current objectives

for the MSTs are currently threefold: to protect the civilian population around the oil fields by making the environment untenable for the occupying NIF, to provide special operations-support for the growing offensive to the east, and to destroy select targets and key individuals on the western front, near Juba, which is where my teams and I are headed, after the training module is completed.

Juba, in particular, is a highly desirable target for the SPLA for numerous reasons. Khartoum's Antonov bombers fly out of Juba to rain terror on the South Sudanese. When they fly out of Juba, they have a four-hour time window to select targets and drop their deadly payload. Once Juba is liberated, the Antonov's will have to fly out of Khartoum, which leaves them with only a 40-minute time window. That's far from perfect, but it would be a big improvement. In 1992, a coup attempt to liberate Juba was made by the SPLA and numerous local NIF soldiers and commanders, who had defected to the SPLA. Unfortunately, the attempt failed because word of the coup was leaked to the NIF. Thus, the Islamic fundamentalist still hold the city today. Immediately after the 1992 coup attempt, the NIF set up so called "Ghost Houses" which are centers for interrogation, torture and execution. Many SPLA soldiers lost family members during the ensuing weeks and months. The "Ghost Houses" are still up and running, and the NIF never seem to have a shortage of victims to fill them.

Sudan's militant Islamic regime has been host to a veritable "who's who" of terrorism. Most notable in this rogues gallery is Osama bin Laden, who was a



*Midnight church service prior to early morning recce 5 miles from the front line, near enemy-held Juba.*





*Nothing is quite as good for morale as a captured tank, such as this former-Soviet T-55. One problem is, everybody wants a ride on it.*

guest of the Sudanese government from 1991 until 1996. Due in part to bin Laden's close friendship with the nations "Islamic Ideologue," Hassan al-Turabi, he was able to increase his wealth and holdings substantially during his years in Sudan, profiting greatly from civil engineering contracts that he was able to secure; building roads bridges, etc., and even being paid for some projects that were never even begun, let alone finished. According to SPLA intelligence, bin Laden's al-Qaeda has also been funded substantially from Sudan's gum-Arabic industry. Red Chinese, North Korean, and Iraqi mercenaries have been killed and captured in New Sudan, along with Libyan regulars and a panoply of volunteers from other Muslim nations.

### Lafayette Lives

While I am Chief Advisor for "Special Operations Training and Actions" to the SPLA, the majority of my pay comes from KM, a mercenary organization to which I belong. The SPLA is a poor guerrilla army, fighting in rags with little funding to spare for anything except food and ammunition. KM is more of a fraternity than a company; not concerned with profit but with ideals, fighting for the forgotten, or so-called "orphan" causes, and fighting against advocates and practitioners of terrorism, oppression, and slavery. Because KM is small in numbers, it is selective and membership is by invitation. KM recruits quietly, but sometimes very

aggressively, from the armed forces of the UK, the United States and some other select groups. Second and first group members usually keep very busy. Third group members are often part-time, while fourth group members are the vital contributors, who give funds, and even more important, set up and maintain "profit centers" which help fund efforts. A typical first group member would have an IQ over 120, be a non-drinker with no tattoos, and a penchant for languages. [Note: SOF Magazine is not in a position to provide points of contact for "KM".]

The MSQ requires seemingly endless hours of classroom instruction, followed by nerve-racking patrols into hostile "contested" areas and real-life operations. Because the war rages on around us, skills are honed and tested in the real world, rather than simulated training scenarios. Even in training, the operational tempo is very high in the SPLA.

Although graduation day is a jubi-



*Bringing food to troops in Lainya, then on to the front lines near Juba. Major James is in foreground.*

lant day for the students and myself, it is also bittersweet in some ways. Many of this latest crop of Mantrack/Snipers will inevitably not survive the next few weeks of the upcoming major offensive. Some I will never see or hear from again. Others I will hear stories about, from other areas of the front as they trickle back. Still others, those within my own command, I may see die. As it is, they will have precious little time to recover before deploying, and the arduous training module takes its toll physically (much of the training regimen would be outright illegal in the American military — it would be considered too cruel and dangerous).

Myun, my trusted Spotter/Bodyguard, is 26 years old. He has been a soldier for 11 years and, like most SPLA soldiers, he never had any formal schooling, and never really had a childhood. He is literate because he was taught how to read by Christian missionaries. He is periodically racked with headaches, fever and chills from malaria, but he suffers stoically, whether laying up in ambush, on a forced-march, taking his turn tracking, or in the heat of battle, shrugging it off and saying there is simply no other choice. Like any other Mantrack/Sniper, he can be deployed with only a rifle and knife, and successfully complete a mission by foraging off the land when necessary, and is able to endure almost indescribable hardship without ever wavering from his mission. These are soldiers that any true warrior would be proud to fight with, and, if necessary, die along side of. As chief advisor for the Mantrack/Sniper Teams, I am constantly amazed by the courage, tenacity, and selflessness of these truly "elite" soldiers, and proud to be associated with them. As we pre-

pare to deploy in anticipation of a major offensive, I can only hope and pray that we have done enough to prepare them for the fighting that lies ahead. I have great confidence in their training, and in their ability to put it to practical use, but the winds of fate can be fickle, especially in war.

*Mike Everyman is a world-traveling freedom fighter who likes puppies and svelte women — and hates tyrants, terrorists and mimes. ☒*



# THE MODERN SCOURGE OF SEX SLAVERY

## PART III

### Mideast Sex-Slave Traffickers Find Ready Market Fueled By Oil

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

The region's traditional cultural tolerance of slavery, combined with exorbitant Middle Eastern oil wealth since the mid-1970s, playing out against the rampant poverty and havoc wreaked by numerous wars, have turned the Middle East into an obscene meat market for sex slaves. Most of the victims of slavery are lost forever, unable to cry out for help behind the impenetrable walls erected in the most secretive region in the world.

The Westernized country of Israel, and to some extent Lebanon, are surrounded by a largely medieval region that is entombed in antiquated philosophy and shrouded in mystery. Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Beirut, products of modernity, are extensions of the Western World, while Egypt, the Gulf and other surrounding states pride themselves in maintaining the integrity of historical tradition. Throughout the Middle East, magnificent pyramids and palaces, the ancient churches and mosques remind of the power, glory and grandeur of the Syrian, Egyptian, Ottoman and other former empires, where questioning human bondage was an invitation to execution.

A stroll along the mystical Nile on a sweltering evening still evokes images of an exotic Egyptian Princess and her slaves or the King's concubines rustling in the shadowing bulrushes, fearfully securing the veiled basket of a sleeping infant. The ancient tradition of concubines and slaves has been transformed into modern-day trafficking of sex slaves. In most Middle East countries, sex slaves, whether Asian, African, Latin, or European, are trapped in the tradition of

harems, clandestine brothels and slave markets; the cultural substitute for nightclubs, discos and massage parlors.

The sex-slave trade in the Middle East highlights the great dichotomy between Israel and its neighbors. In most of the Middle East, the rich culture and tradition, as well as the remnants of centuries of intolerance or tragedy, remain veiled behind regimes of dictatorial tyrants, overly protective monarchs, or fanatical Islamic clerics. While activists are openly battling the problem in the democratic Israel, the neighbor-

There are five child-trading rings in and around Murshidabad in West Bengal, which operate by trafficking children to Mecca, say local police.

ing Islamic countries rebuke any interference. Although the attempts to expose the atrocities differ dramatically between Israel and the rest of the Middle East, the underlying abuse by authorities and organized crime is equally prevalent in both arenas.

#### The Gateway To The Middle East

Lebanon, once grandiosely considered the "Paris" of the Middle East, stood alone as a modern land of freedom, fashion, multiculturalism, multi-ethnicity and tolerance in a climate of medieval backwardness.

The unfathomable poverty in the cities and villages, with children dressed in rags, mounds of watermelon in the mid-



dle of the roads, tiny baskets of apples being sold by some peasant, and squalor in refugee camps echo the past violence of repeated war and the ongoing, unresolved conflict in Palestine. By the end of the 17-year civil war in Lebanon, crime syndicates had become firmly rooted in the lawlessness of civil chaos. The tradition of modernity, including sexual freedom, night clubs, tourist beaches, strip joints and other manifestations of Westernization offered a ideal forum for the trafficking of African, Asian and European sex slaves. Lebanon's uncontrolled corruption set the stage for organized crime to operate freely.

Lebanon's renewed post-civil war mercantilism opened the ports to the purchase of women and children, exposing them to rape, physical assault, nonpayment of salaries and debt bondage, according to the NGO Trafficking in Migrants.

"There is a trafficking problem through and into Lebanon," Reuters cites Mrs. Robinson, former UN Commissioner for Human Rights. Scores of women are being trafficked for prostitution in clubs and cabarets in Beirut and neighboring seaside strips.

Sixty-seven Ethiopian women were sent home in coffins in the last three years from Arab countries, the main destination of trafficked Ethiopian women. Ethiopian agents collaborate with their Arab peers and expat Ethiopians living in Lebanon to recruit relatives or friends from back home, with the promise of high paying jobs or marriage.

#### Wholesale Abuse

Asian, Eastern European, African and other women who have "flooded" into the rich Arab states face "exposure to

hunger; subjection to beatings; no wages; parts of body seared in boiling oil by wives of employers; grilled with hot irons; thrown out of high-rise windows; harassed by the police; and robbed of bodily organs while still alive; many ending in suicide," said Stop Traffic, a non-governmental organization designed to address the problem.

Stop Traffic made a desperate plea to save one young slave sentenced to death in Bahrain in 2000. The execution was to proceed without an investigation or fair trial. After being mentally and sexually abused and brutally beaten for months from her enslavement at the age of 18 until she was 20, the slave killed her female employer, a Filipino woman. I was unable to find out the fate of the girl, but, as the organization pointed out, her case was highlighted to expose the fate of one who is among thousands of slaves in the Gulf States risking the same fate.

The phenomenon of abuse of these slaves by women, whether wives, recruiters, or Moslem radicals, results from the jealousies bred in a culture of concubines and sex slaves and preconceived notions of "infidels," "adulterers" and "fornicators." On the one hand, sex is a veiled issue and sexual abuse of minors, including child marriages and rape, is often legal. For example, in some Islamic cultures, if a woman is raped, a marriage proposal by the assailant gets him off the hook. On the other hand, execution is often the penalty for sexual indiscretions. Consequently, as End Child Prostitution

*Young Hungarian male prostitute negotiates with client: Once European kids are "recruited" for Middle Eastern slave trade, however, such free-enterprise options are gone.*



Aniko Hegyes/Red Dot/ZUMA Press



In Asia (ECPAT) says, child prostitution and child pornography are either conducted deeply underground in specific rented apartments and through personal contacts. Due to the lack of openness in the monarchies and dictatorships of the Middle East, it is impossible to separate the trafficking of men, women and children into separate categories, whether domestic, sexual or otherwise. Non-governmental organizations warn that the draconian laws in place in closed societies subject any trafficked person to summary judgments, false accusations of prostitution, torture, and executions.

### Sadaam's Ministry Of Death

Ten years of the most comprehensive multilateral sanc-

guard in their palace prison that the last person to inhabit his cell was a "U.S. girl child whore slave."

The Saudi princes dehumanize child sex slaves by calling them whores so as not to come into conflict with Saudi laws, Sauduction said. Saudi princes "special order" children through a photo in a medium or give a description of a child. The child is "snatched" in the U.S. and smuggled to Saudi Arabia. In other instances, pimps representing Saudis find victims in malls, fast food establishments, clubs, arcades, bus stations and other hangouts. Procurers recruiting girls or boys through ads for secretarial or modeling positions send videos of their victims to Saudi princes. If the prince is interested, he may request the drugged children be taken to his plane and

Saudi princes "special order" children through a photo in a medium or give a description of a child. The child is "snatched" in the U.S. and smuggled to Saudi Arabia. In other instances, pimps representing Saudis find victims in malls, fast-food establishments, clubs, arcades, bus stations and other hangouts.

tions designed to take down Saddam have left him empowered, while devastating the economy and population of Iraq, resulting in extreme poverty, malnutrition, and misery. Many women and children, both male and female have been caught in the web of human trafficking in order to support themselves or their families. Most of those that end up in the sex trade either die of disease or are executed by fellow Iraqis.

"The execution area, the *hadiqa* (garden) is located near the women's prison. The *hadiqa* is an open area with a sandbank covered by an awning" where prisoners are machine-gunned or otherwise executed. *The Guardian* reports that 30 prostitutes were summarily beheaded in 2000.

Orders detailing gruesome methods of execution are signed-off by Saddam's family or close advisers. On the eighth floor of the Ministry of Interior's main building in Baghdad is the judgment den. "None of the normal lifts in the building stop at the eight floor. This is only accessible by its own special lift." A former minister, Watban Ibrahim al Hassan, was said to have "had every execution videoed. Copies of the videos were kept in a vault in Hassan's office on the second floor of the ministry," Stop-Traffic reports.

Ironically, it was The General Union of Iraqi Women, a group of sadistic women either bound up by archaic beliefs or anxious to please, who informed authorities of the women's prostitution. In another witch-hunt, 50 prostitutes, men and women, were publicly beheaded in Iraq by swords and their heads were hung on the door of their homes. Some women, it is believed, are accused of prostitution without merit. The government denies all reports. The story of Iraq is murky and sketchy and incomplete, as the walls built around the society by Saddam Hussein are practically impenetrable.

### The Incestuous U.S. Relationship With The Saudis

"It is an open secret in Washington that the State Department has been extremely sensitive to criticism of its actions regarding Saudi Arabia and its princes." Sauduction, the non-governmental agency monitoring Washington-Saudi relations, points out that it "became aware of non-parental child abductions by Saudi princes when a U.S. citizen enslaved and tortured by King Fahd's nephews was told by a

then flown to Saudi Arabia. Allegedly, the privileged Saudi princes are allowed to circumvent customs and immigrations. Sauduction believes that the sex slaves are dumped into the Rub' al Khali desert so they will not talk once the owner has gotten bored with them. Reports are that girls and boys along the Côte d'Azur and the French coast have had Saudi princes trying to entice them into their planes or boats for "a ride." Saudi Princes contract "special order" requests from Brazil, London, Paris, and in Scandinavia the princes get "their fair-haired children from immigrant procurers."

### Privileged, Perverted Petroleum Princes

"We have been told by a reliable source within the Justice Department that the number of disappeared girls between the ages of 11- and 14-years-old is drastically under-counted for fear of causing alarm among U.S. parents. ... We do know that there are U.S. sex slaves in Saudi Arabia," Sauduction said.

On a nationally syndicated television show, the agency writes, a guest "soap opera" star recalled how "some nice-speaking Arab guys called and invited me to a big party at a Miami penthouse. It was like a palace inside. There were actresses and models everywhere ... ." A cook apparently warned the girls that the Saudi prince who owned the den had his people slip drugs into girls' drinks and then took them to a helicopter on the roof. "He said he never saw any of them again," she said. The cook used his service key to let some girls take a locked elevator downstairs. When the girls and their parents inquired, they were told that no such matter had ever been reported. Saudi princes often receive diplomatic immunity from the State Department, Sauduction said.

The princes have financed and owned modeling and escort agencies in the U.S. and Europe to "insure top-quality merchandise and cut out the middle men." *Life Magazine*, Sauduction reports, wrote of a former Miss USA, Shannon Marketic, who claimed she was imprisoned after answering an ad for a modeling job paying \$3,000 per day. She claimed that she was escorted to a room where she felt drowsy and passed out. She awoke to find her clothes rearranged, then tried to leave but was forbidden. After her escape, she filed a



suit charging princes with multiple allegations.

The Saudi Arabian sex-slave trade has shifted from Africa to encompass the globe. African slaves are "declared subhuman so they can be sold without violation of the *Koran* — [slaves] are told the way to Paradise lies beneath the foot of their master." Saudition reports that already by the end of the 1950s there were an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 slaves in Saudi Arabia. The "high-end buyers," some members of the Saudi family, deny any involvement in the slavery that concentrates in the Gulf states, and rebuff any international scrutiny.

It is important to note that many of the "models," "girl-friends," or "escorts" willingly accompany the Saudis and claim no abuse.

In another hypocritical move, the Thai government, which allows its country to boast of the most widespread sex-trafficking, demanded a crack-down on a prostitution ring in Saudi Arabia into which Thai women are trafficked, according to *The Nation*.

Suna, a notorious female Thai trafficker, forced her victims to make rounds in a compartment below a truck's undercarriage in the scorching sun, dragging the girls from one construction site to another offering their sexual services to migrant workers. Under death threats, they were forced to

from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal may be sold for between \$3,000 and \$10,000, Reuters reports. The girls are drugged and locked up, to be used by their new owner at his whim. When the client is bored or the girls become ill, he abandons her and leaves her to die. The client moves on to another girl. The average life span for the girls is approximately two years.

In Iran the existence of prostitution is officially unmentionable. ECPAT reports that there was an arrest of a former Iranian revolutionary tribunal and other officials in connection with a prostitution ring involving underage girls. The state-controlled paper *Ressalat* reported that due to extreme poverty Khorassan citizens sell their girls for as little as \$33 and in the impoverished province of Sistan-Baluchistan, girls eight- to 10-years-old are sold by their drug-addicted parents for \$4. According to the penal code, a nine-year-old girl can be punished as an adult by flogging, execution and even stoning. Numerous children have been executed, in many cases without being officially charged or even having their identities established.

### Poverty, Prostitution And Punishment

Tens of thousands of women have been subjected to cruel torture and execution. Revolutionary Guards have fired a single bullet into the womb of women political prisoners,

"We have been told by a reliable source within the Justice Department that the number of disappeared girls between the ages of 11- and 14-years old is drastically under-counted for fear of causing alarm among U.S. parents. ... We do know that there are U.S. sex slaves in Saudi Arabia," Saudition said.

share a 12x15-foot room with seven other girls, one of whom was Suna's sister. Each girl had to service four to 10 customers a day. Suna would earn about 200 to 800 riyals per visit. The girls were given "free" room and board in exchange.

### Pilgrimage Of Prostitution To Mecca

The journal *Kompas* reports that Pakistan is the transit point for girls brought in from Far East Asia and Bangladesh before being smuggled into the Gulf States. Auctions of girls are arranged for three kinds of buyers: rich visiting Arabs including sheiks, businessmen and state-financed medical and university students, says Women Issues Network. Pakistani women are trafficked to India, and through India they are trafficked to Saudi Arabia and other destinations. The country has become a recruiting ground for Pakistani and Afghan girls as young as 13 who are taken to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

"Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is where girls from various countries, including Eastern Europe and Russia, end up," a Crime chief told the *Friday Times*. The *Times* reporter confirmed that five-star hotels in Dubai had discotheques that were "teeming with girls." There are five child-trading rings in and around Murshidabad, in West Bengal, which operate by trafficking children to Mecca, say local police.

The U.S. state department reports that hundreds of Indonesian women are trafficked as prostitutes to Saudi Arabian and that citizens of Kenya were trafficked to Saudi Arabia under the guise of employment opportunities.

Little girls and women trafficked to the Sultanate of Oman

including hundreds of pregnant ones, leaving them to bleed to death in a slow process of excruciating pain. Many defenseless women prisoners are held in "residential quarters" in prisons, where the guards systematically rape them.

"It is appalling. Never has prostitution been so rampant. But everything is done behind the veil," Mahin, a 47-year old female Iranian jurist purged by the *mullahs*, told Helen Kami, journalist for *Elle* magazine in January 1997.

"Prostitutes regularly roam Gandhi Street in north Tehran. At 5 p.m., we go to Istanbuli Street, also in north Tehran. The cab drivers, looking for wealthy or foreign patrons, are driving slowly. In exchange for only \$1 (500 *Tomans*), they can provide you with girls, alcoholic beverages, heroin and hashish."

At least seven individuals have been stoned to death in public since Khatami's election. The penalty for fornication, under articles 100 and 102 of the penal code, is only flogging for the unmarried male offender, but stoning to death for the unmarried female offender. Adulterers may be stoned to death, irrespective of their gender, but a man is buried up to his waist, and a woman up to her neck.

Three women and three men were stoned to death in public in Khazar Abad after a court found them guilty of adultery and prostitution under Iran's Islamic laws. The stoning was carried out by local citizens in public, in Khazar Abad, near the Caspian Sea.

An international lawyer, Dr. Martin Brass is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



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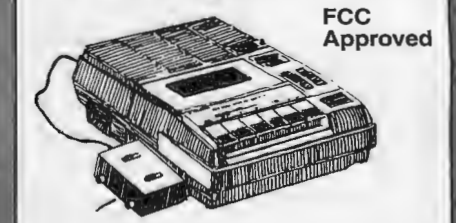
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Fobus Holsters .....19  
Global School  
Of Investigation .....60  
Glock .....31

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Kent Lomont .....24  
Krebs Custom Guns .....25  
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# UNDER REVIEW

## PART 3

### FBI's Countdown To Disaster: That Ticking Bomb Is OKC

BY J.D. CASH

Photos courtesy Premier Broadcasting & Publishing Company, Ltd.

**T**he meltdown at the FBI, INS and CIA over 9/11 is long overdue. Thousands may have died because a few well-paid bureaucrats failed this country, miserably. To provide effective oversight of these agencies, Congress should also delve into the FBI's \$85-million investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing.

At no time in the government's presentation of evidence in the Timothy McVeigh or Terry Nichols trials were plausible explanations offered to refute the accounts provided by exceedingly credible eyewitnesses, who claimed — and remain steadfast — that others were involved.

During the Nichols' trial, we learned the FBI generated more than 1,000 latent prints, but never ran them in their computer to see who was with McVeigh in his cars and motel rooms and at the Ryder truck rental on 17 April 1995.

What reporters and others did learn in Denver only highlighted the weaknesses in the FBI's investigation.

Jury forewoman Niki Deutchman summoned her courage, though. After a "gag order" on jurors was removed, she walked to a nearby park filled with reporters and spoke honestly. "The government dropped the ball. ... I think there are other people out there, and decisions were made early on that Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols were who they were looking for; and the same sort of resources were not used to try to find out who else might be involved."

Months later, even Judge Matsch questioned the FBI investigation. During a sentencing hearing for Nichols, Matsch asked government prosecutor, Larry Mackey, to keep FBI agents on the case, because, "There are many unanswered questions surrounding all this."

#### Connecting The Dots

Last year, I filed a number of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to various agencies of the federal government and Open Record Act requests to the state of Oklahoma to learn what hadn't been revealed about the Oklahoma City bombing case. I found plenty.

In an August 1996 memorandum obtained from the FBI marked "Director of the FBI to the Philadelphia office": The FBI admitted it had a videotape with statements referring to

a plot to commit a "massacre" at a federal building. The tape was made by terrorists — only weeks before the holocaust that visited Oklahoma City.

According to the FBI memo, the statements were made by a bank robbery gang called the Aryan Republican Army (ARA). ARA members received paramilitary training at Elohim City, an offbeat Christian Identity camp in Oklahoma, linked to McVeigh.

Two of the men in the tape are Peter Kevin Langan and Richard Lee Guthrie, Jr. (deceased) — leaders of a cell of revolutionaries that operated from a "safe house" in Pittsburg, Kansas, at the time of the bombing.

Langan had been pulled out of jail in Georgia by the Secret Service in 1993 and put to work to infiltrate the Aryan Nation and find old friend, Richard Guthrie. The SS possessed intelligence that Guthrie was plotting to assassinate top political figures. But Langan, the son of a Vietnam-era CIA officer, decided to double-cross the agency and "fall off the end of the earth."

Ditching his SS handler, Langan hooked-up with Guthrie — a Navy SEAL dropout with EOD training and penchants for genocide and race-based revolution. The two headed for Elohim City in search of recruits.

Referring to the smoking-gun admissions made in January of 1995, the memo advises: (Note: The FBI made all redactions before they released this material.)

"Langan pointed to a poster which contains the ARA 'Hit List' that included pictures of Attorney General Janet Reno, FBI Director Louis Freeh, President William Clinton and Senator Howard Metzenbaum and stated that those pictured have already had death sentences passed against them or have been banished by military tribunal. Langan makes reference in the video to his 'Serb Brothers' and their battle for ethnic cleansing. Later in the video, the other three ARA members, Guthrie, (additional names redacted) all wearing Halloween masks, can be seen in the background while Langan asks the viewers to work for revolution and to adhere to the program of Christian Identity. At another point in the video, Langan asks the other members if they are ready for the 'Courthouse Massacre.' One answers in the affirmative



and displays a semi-automatic handgun and says there will be many congressmen and judges there.”

A copy of the video confirms the FBI memo. Near the end of the videotape, Langan is with three men, all wearing disguises. Langan turns to his comrades and says: “Do you want to join ‘Unit 7’ at the courthouse massacre?”

Guthrie, wearing a Halloween mask, pulls out a pistol and hand grenade, then says, “Oh, yes! There’s going to be a big party down there, judges and congressmen. We’re trying to get a war started.”

Langan responds: “And don’t forget your cake!”

Mr. Guthrie told the FBI that, in the fall of 1994, he drove to Pennsylvania and met with Mark Thomas, the head of the Aryan Nations — Eastern Command. The purpose of the Thomas meeting was to get permission from the Aryan Nation to form an additional cell. Presumably, this is the so-called “Unit 7.”

On 2 May 1995, the FBI obtained an affidavit from Jennifer McVeigh. Timothy McVeigh’s sister admitted her brother was involved in robbing banks and that she “laundered” some of the stolen cash.

Two years later, when ARA leader Mark Thomas was arrested for a role in the bank robbery scheme, he acknowledged at a press conference that a member of the ARA, Kevin McCarthy, assisted McVeigh in the bombing. Two weeks later, a prosecutor in Philadelphia said Thomas received a deal from the government and recanted that statement.

Later, Thomas’ girlfriend met with the FBI. In separate interviews, she warned that Mark Thomas told her in late 1994, that his gang would bomb a federal building as payback for Waco. She also said Thomas was at Elohim City the week



***Dressed in TAC team gear, OHP Trooper Lieutenant Bill Hughes left crime scene only 11 minutes (at 9:13 AM) after blast. Hughes was OHP’s “top gun” and head of the firearm academy at this time. Cars on fire behind the trooper confirm the time on his watch is accurate. By 9:25 AM those fires were out. Hughes’ duty station is 20 minutes from scene. Documents received under State Open-Records Act confirm an OHP TAC team was brought to Oklahoma City for surveillance duty on Monday, before the blast. They may have seen too much. According to OHP Dispatch logs, all members of the OHP were placed under a “gag order” by the FBI on the afternoon of the blast.***

before the bombing.

Referring to Richard Butler’s Aryan Nation organization, once headquartered at Hayden Lake, Idaho, the Director’s Memo states: “Cell members collectively committed 22 armed robberies from November 1992 to December 1995, netting approximately \$250,000. Investigation has determined that the proceeds of these robberies have provided funding for white extremists including the ARA, as well as, for (name redacted) and his supremacist organization. ... It is believed based on investigation conducted to date, that funds may have been passed to the Aryan Nations Church of Jesus Christ Christian, Hayden Lake, Idaho.”

Assessing the chilling evidence, the memo summarizes the Bureau’s plan: “The violent acts perpetrated by the ARA, as well as the rhetoric, comply with the four required circumstances described in the Attorney General’s guidelines for the initiation of a DS/T (Domestic Security/Terrorism) investigation. The four circumstances are as follows: 1) The magnitude of the threatened harm, i.e., political Assassination, Genocide, Bombings, Bank and Armored Car Robberies; 2) The likelihood it will occur, i.e., violent acts advocated by members of the ARA have occurred on a consistent basis over the past decade. This pattern, coupled with the comments and views of the group’s leadership, tend to assure a continuance of these types of actions to attain their political goals; 3) The immediacy of the threat, i.e., the Aryan Nations is an organization whose members have historically been involved in criminal activity aimed at the violent overthrow of the U.S. Government; 4) The danger to privacy and free expression, i.e., members of the ARA have prepared a video encouraging other white supremacists to join cells for the commission of assassinations and other criminal acts and have committed violent acts in furtherance of their desire to violently overthrow the U.S. Government. Based on their criminal patterns of activity, it is inherent upon the FBI to continue its investigation into their activities, funding and associations.”

Two of the young men in the ARA videotape were Scott Stedeford and Kevin McCarthy, young Philadelphia skin-heads recruited by Mark Thomas into the Aryan Nation and sent to Elohim City for terrorist training. Their roommate at Elohim City was paramilitary guru Andreas Carl Strassmeir aka “Andy the German.”

After making the video, ARA gang members drove to Arizona. The same week the ARA arrived at a campground near Flagstaff, McVeigh rented a motel in Kingman, then retrieved from a storage locker explosives that the government says were used to blow-up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Records from an ATF informant’s file reveal that in January 1995 the threat level at Elohim City reached a point that the Tulsa office opted for arrest warrants. Preparations for a raid commenced. On 7 February, an Oklahoma State trooper flying photo-recon over Elohim City for the ATF learned of the pending action. On 22 February, the trooper contacted the Tulsa office of the ATF and warned them they were stepping on an FBI operation. According to FBI records, that operation may have been the largest domestic undercover operation since “COINTELPRO.”

When civil libertarians discovered the abuses, COINTELPRO was officially shut down in 1971. The replacement: VAAPCON or Violence Against Abortion Providers Conspiracy, emerged much later.

VAAPCON was passed in early 1994. The broadly worded statute added muscle to conspiracy laws regarding bombings and violence by fringe groups. Direction for the project came



from Attorney General Janet Reno.

Reno told senior members of the FBI she wanted evidence of a conspiracy between religious fundamentalists and militia groups. Ms. Reno was determined to prove there really was a "Vast Rightwing Conspiracy."

Larry Potts and Danny Coulson of the Criminal Division of the FBI were assigned roles in VAAPCON. In August of 1994, the FBI launched Major Case 111 (MC-111).

Also in August 1994, Carol E. Howe (aka "Freya") was signed to a confidential informant's contract in the Tulsa offices of the ATF. The former debutante was now CI-183. Immediately, the 5' tall, 99-pound beauty began filing voluminous reports about illegal activities taking place at Elohim City.

Elohim City was suspected of being the nerve center for widespread drug manufacture, as well as weapons and explosives violations. Howe's reports focused on persons who were preparing for an outright war with the government. And the worse thing that could happen *did*. In February of 1995, the state of Arkansas announced plans to execute Richard Wayne Snell.

Wayne Snell was an icon within the far-right, and members of his family lived at Elohim City. The date set for the martyr's execution: 19 April 1995 — Patriot's Day, and the second anniversary of Waco. Whoever was behind this decision obviously wanted to send a message. And those on the fringe got it.

The same week that Snell's execution date was announced, Tim McVeigh had a fake driver's license made. The name on the license was Robert Kling. The date of birth was listed as 19 April. The license would be presented in Junction City, where a truck used in the bombing was rented.

Snell's spiritual advisor, Pastor Robert Millar of Elohim City, called it an "In your face challenge!" He brought Andy Strassmeir and his ARA gang members before the congregation and told them they must act before the next anniversary of Waco.

Howe's reports reflect that men at Elohim City were making trips to Oklahoma City and Tulsa, "casing" federal buildings. Carol and her ATF handler checked into a motel in OKC to go over, step-by-step, everywhere she'd been with the Elomites.

In Arizona, during the first week in February, McVeigh registered at a budget motel in downtown Kingman. ARA members Pete Langan, Richard Guthrie, Scott Stedford and Kevin McCarthy set-up camp 90 miles away in a remote location on the Apache Indian reservation, called Camp Verde.

The manager of the Kingman motel where McVeigh stayed recalled a number of young men hanging around his room — drinking beer on the porch and playing loud music.

A few days later, a bomb rocked suburban Kingman. In the early hours of 21 February, a small ANFO device detonated near the back of a house on old Highway 66. The occupants were shaken, but survived.

The target of the blast, Rocky McPeak, told a federal grand jury that local dope dealers Clark Vollmer and Tim McVeigh were involved in payback, McPeak believed, for his failure to go through with a narcotics deal. Three hours after the McPeak bombing, the SAC of the Phoenix FBI office, Weldon Kennedy, made his way to the same area where the ARA was camped. Coincidence? If so, it's the beginning of the most amazing



**Secret Service snitch-turned-radical revolutionary and bank bandit, "Commander Pedro" (Peter Langan) displays loot from bank heist in recruiting video seized by FBI. During taping, Langan brags about a "Court House Massacre" the gang is planning. Film was made days before ARA left Kansas for Arizona where explosives were stored that only weeks later were, according to prosecutors, used to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.**

series of coincidences to occur in this Byzantine affair.

Kennedy's travel records reflect a meeting with a Sedona FBI supervisor and the local police at Camp Verde. If they had the ARA and McVeigh under surveillance, it's not mentioned. On 23 February, SA Marty Weber, of the OKC FBI office, notified the ATF's Tulsa manager of a meeting with Bob Ricks about a proposed Elohim City raid and arrest of Strassmeir and others. Bob Ricks later confirmed that he stopped the ATF raid on Elohim City and those arrests. Days later, on 27 February, Ricks flew to Dallas and met with the DEA's new man assigned to run EPIC, Phil Jordan.

The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) is staffed from 15 federal agencies including CIA, FBI, ATF, DEA, INS, Secret Service, Department of State and

the Defense Intelligence Agency. EPIC is also the same organization federal law enforcement used at Waco in '93. Only through EPIC can law-enforcement gain the assistance of Joint Task Force 6 — also headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas. Specialties include surveillance aircraft, transponders to track vehicles and listening devices for telephone conversations.

According to procedures, should the FBI wish to tap the resources of JTF-6, they must exhibit a "drug-nexus" to their investigation. And to operate in Oklahoma, the DOD would have to authorize the expansion of JTF-6 area of operations from its existing state border areas of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and California.

The same month Ricks met with the new chief of EPIC, an authorization expanding JTF-6 to all 50 states was signed at the DOD. Memoranda surrounding this authorization are "Classified."

FBI travel records reveal that on 20 March, Bob Ricks and Phoenix SAC Weldon Kennedy arrived at Quantico, Virginia. For two days, both were involved in training and discussions with the Critical Incident Response Group" (CIRG) — a sophisticated cadre of specialists.

CIRG's mission is to provide back-up for FBI commanders involved in a counter-terrorist operation. The team brings to the table all the FBI's crisis units, including HRT, FBI SWAT personnel, behavioral scientists and hostage negotiators.

Whether ex-Deputy Director Potts or then-Deputy Assistant Director Danny Coulson attended the 20-22 March 1995 CIRG meeting is not known. The FBI admits both Potts and Coulson's travel records are "missing" for the period of 1 March thru 18 April 1995. A spokesman for the FBI confirmed that the travel records listing the locations and purpose of official travel for the two have been "mysteriously" removed.

What can be confirmed is Danny Coulson, the founding commander of the HRT, contacted a reformed right-wing terrorist and had him flown to Quantico to meet with CIRG. On 28 March, Kerry Noble arrived at the FBI training facility and met with members of crisis unit.

There, Mr. Noble suggested techniques to negotiate with a cult group under barricade conditions. He should know. Ten years earlier, Coulson arrested Noble, after the FBI surrounded a Christian Identity compound where Noble and others lived.



Known as the Covenant, Sword and Arm of the Lord (CSA), the Arkansas paramilitary camp was surrounded by the FBI on 19 April 1985. Agents had information on various plots the group was involved in, and that fugitives from Robert Mathew's "Order" were hiding there.

Kerry Noble later admitted that in 1983, he was present when Wayne Snell and others at the CSA put together a plan to bomb the Murrah Federal Building. Noble said the bomb plot was only shelved when the bomb-builder injured himself in an explosion.

On 21 March 1995, a 16-hour course called "Mass Casualties" was convened in Woodward, Oklahoma. Organized by the Department of Civil Emergency Management, county emergency reps from the western half of the state attended a three-day seminar. The course work focused on a "fictional accident" involving an explosion that destroys a school, killing many of the 300 persons in attendance.

FBI travel records for the Phoenix office show that on 29 March, SAC Weldon Kennedy parked his car somewhere, obtained a parking receipt, and then disappeared from his office until 13 April.

No destination is listed other than a \$15.00 charge for something he calls, "FBI spring training." But on 30 March, a separate set of travel and expense vouchers show that Kennedy had boarded a commercial plane and flown to El Paso for a meeting at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC).

After briefly returning to Phoenix, Kennedy traveled to Mexico City and checked into the Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel for a meeting at the U.S. Embassy — again with members of the EPIC team. Three days later, Kennedy departed Mexico and returned to Phoenix.

On 14 April, OKC Fire Department dispatchers received a warning from law enforcement that they should go on-alert for an act of terrorism expected the following week. After the bombing, most of the department's dispatch records for the 19th were destroyed.

Now, only 72 hours before the blast, Oklahoma officials appeared to be making additional preparations linked to a counterterrorist operation.

On 17 April, troopers belonging to the Western Division of Oklahoma Highway Patrol "Tact Team" arrived in Oklahoma City for "surveillance exercises." The team included a bomb squad and was among the first on the scene when the bomb went off at the federal building.

18 April: Agents of the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation began arriving in Oklahoma City. Pay records list criminal investigation project #115 as the reason. Project 115 later becomes criminal case CR95-623 — the OSBI's number assigned to the bomb investigation.

With the assault in OKC fewer than



*This is not how the FBI and OHP dress for a crime-scene investigation! Captured only minutes after the blast, these heavily armed members of the FBI SWAT and OHP TAC team are ditching the tell-tale clothing in back of an OHP cruiser. This area was cordoned off from the press corps at the time. Evidence of clip was only recently discovered by author.*

19 April: During pre-dawn hours, witnesses reported activity around the Murrah Building involving members of a bomb squad with dogs.

19 April: Sometime before 9:00 AM, members of Oklahoma's Department of Civil Emergency Management gathered at the National Guard Military Academy. In attendance were representatives from every law enforcement, military, and other state and federal agencies that respond to disasters in Oklahoma. All records of communications between the team at the National Guard facility and the command center bunker later disappear. Officials claim the records were destroyed during a computer software upgrade.

19 April, 9:02 AM: A blast decimated a substantial part of downtown OKC.

19 April, 10:35 AM: OKC police dispatch records record that DOD personnel from as far away as 142 miles, were *already* at the scene. It states: "Ft. Sill Dog Teams on-scene; 2 Vance AFB (teams) on scene — dogs standing by; 2 Shepherd AFB Bomb Dog (teams) on-scene."



*While author was interviewing witnesses who were present when McVeigh and others were at Lady Godiva's topless bar in Tulsa, the nude body of Shawn Tea Farrens (right) was found in her apartment. Caught on the club's dressing room security videotape 11 days before the blast, Tara (left) asked Shawn Tea if she was interested in a "date" later that night with the men bragging about what they were going to do on 19 April 1995. After describing the money the young men were flashing, Farrens was overheard saying, "I'll find a way to scam them, somehow." An FBI agent later told the author he believed the woman was murdered. Local police wrote it up as a suicide/drug overdose.*

24 hours away, Weldon Kennedy returned to El Paso. In a memo, he wrote that the DOD had reserved a block of hotel rooms. The motel reservations were made by JTF-6. In a post-bombing memo of 8 May 1995, Kennedy records that he was, "Ordered to go to El Paso by Headquarters, FBI."

19 April: Dallas SAC Danny Coulson's records for this day, somehow, survived. Obtained through a FOIA request: A computer-generated receipt [which is in the author's files] reveals Coulson checked into the Oklahoma City Embassy Suites Hotel at 12:20 AM. This is 8 hours and 42 minutes before the bomb goes off. Coulson lists the purpose of his trip to Oklahoma City as: MC-111. This is VAAPCON!

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21 April: ATF records reflect Carol Howe's handler completed a "lead sheet" for the FBI. The agent noted: "E/C's (Elohim City) leader, Robert Millar, was contacted by McVeigh on 5 April 1995 after he [McVeigh] had contacted a Ryder Rental that day."

Months later, defense lawyers received copies of calls McVeigh and Nichols made using a calling card. The details of the two calls the Tulsa ATF agent refers to are exactly right. The first is from a motel in Kingman to a Ryder truck rental in Arizona. Then, 20-seconds later, McVeigh called Elohim City and is reported to have told a woman, "Tell Andy I'll be there, soon."

How could Carol's ATF "handler" know anything about calls on 21 April, made with a calling card that was not even discovered until the following day, 22 April, when the FBI and ATF raided Terry Nichols' home in Herington, Kansas and found the pin #?

*Continued on page 81*



# SUREFIRE | COURSE

## SNIPER

## Taking Back The Night

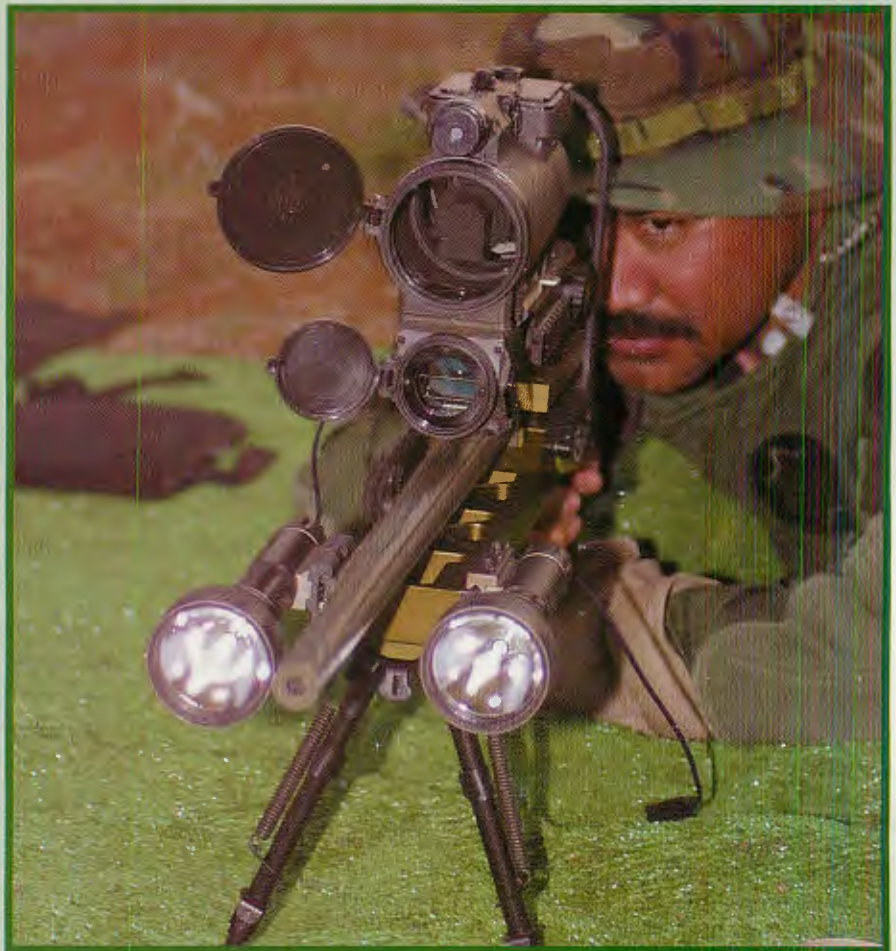
BY ODIN CROWE

**MY** partner and I arrived at the call-out scene, and our team leader quickly gave us a sitrep. It was 1930 hours and the spring air in south Texas was finally beginning to cool as the sun slowly sank below the horizon.

"There is a bank around the corner of this building," he said, "inside the bank there are two women, one a hostage with brown hair, the other the suspect with blonde hair. Our observers indicate that the suspect is holding either an Uzi or a MAC-10 sub-machine gun. You have to get into a good firing position, determine the threat, identify the target, and decide whether or not it is necessary to take the shot. If you deem it essential and can take it successfully, do so. You have seven minutes."

We grabbed our mission-essential gear, consisting of our Leica rangefinder and binoculars, Black Hills 175-grain Moly .308 ammo, databooks, Kowa spotting scopes, our Eagle packs and our rifles. I was employing a European system, my Accuracy International Arctic Warfare (AW) equipped with Schmidt and Bender 3-12 x 50 optics. My partner's choice of firepower was an American-made Remington 700, topped off with a Leupold scope.

Around the corner, we spotted the bank with glass windows that barely concealed the two women. I glassed the target with my spotting scope to assess the situation. The hostage was pale, with a terrified demeanor. The suspect was screaming in a language that I didn't understand, although her body language was plain. My partner, Sandy, used a large mound of dirt to conceal our movement up to an acceptable shooting position. I glanced at my watch. Five minutes remaining. The sun had set by now, and we were about to attempt to identify and engage a target in a low-light situation. I lased the target with the Leica rangefinder and received a reading of 163. We dialed the distance into our scopes, identified the threat, requested a green light, and squeezed the trigger. Two shots rang



*High-tech solutions for low-light sniping: At SureFire course, students learn to use the full gamut of available tools to take back the night.*

out simultaneously. We watched as the projectiles cut through the pane of glass, ending the suspect's life.

### "Just The Facts, Ma'am"

SureFire has been building tactical flashlights since 1980, when the LAPD asked John Mathews, the CEO of SureFire, if he could build a weapon-mounted light for them, for use with security during the 1980 summer Olympics. From that moment on, the name SureFire was synonymous with tactical illumination tools — flashlights on steroids. Today SureFire builds flashlights for almost every conceivable situation, whether for searching your

glove compartment or for use as a weapon. Ask anyone who has been zapped in the eyes by a SureFire beam, and they will agree with the use of the term "weapon."

SureFire has been training law-enforcement and military personnel since 1997, focusing on low-light conflict resolution. There are many training schools available to the armed professional around the country that offer myriad training curricula, however only one, SureFire, specializes in low-light combat.

Travis Mitchell and Rory McGahan, the sniper school instructors, have been working with SureFire for a number of



years, both as instructors and in law-enforcement and military sales. They share a great sense of humor, making their periods of instruction a pleasure.

Prior to joining Team SureFire, Rory spent several years as a Marine, as well as a Texas police SWAT sniper and team leader with hundreds of real-world callouts, including the notorious incident at Waco in 1993.

Travis Mitchell, before joining the ranks of SureFire, was the Chief sniper instructor of the Marine Corps esteemed SOTG (Special Operations Training Group) program for three years. Travis is an expert on night-vision equipment, as well as unconventional sniping issues, for the Marine Corps. Travis has trained more than 30 large-city law-enforcement agency SWAT teams in carbine, SWAT and sniping operations. He brings real-world lessons learned from his experience in Mogadishu, Somalia as a successful Marine sniper.

Both Rory and Travis have a wealth of knowledge in long-range sniping tactics, formulas, and principles and their real-world applications that result in a superior course. They are both extremely approachable, a trait not found in many instructors these days. Another attribute that separates them from other instructors is the fact that they will shoot in front of the students, sometimes jumping in during the scenarios, or shooting the students' guns when there seems to be a grouping

problem. On numerous occasions, the instructors could be found on their down-time helping students, the author included, on their shooting positions, mathematical formulas, or any other question that an apprentice had.

### **We Can't Shoot At Night, Can We?**

The curriculum that was taught was unique in that it blended lessons learned from previous experiences with an outside-of-the-box thought process. For example, as I stated earlier SureFire is known for its low-light combat solutions. This also applies to the long-range club. SureFire has developed a light that attaches to your bolt gun either on the scope, or mounted on the receiver to a Picatinny rail. The tail-cap of the light features a tape switch that activates from pressure, which can be ordered in any length from the factory. In low-light shooting situations, you activate the tape switch momentarily, sending out a pulse of blinding white light to the tune of 500 lumens, to identify your target. Once the target is recognized, and you are on target,

your partner repeats the process, this time holding the white light on the target, and you engage as a team. Now before you get all uppity about the use of white light during times of darkness giving you away, know this: SOTG, the Marine school, found that flashing a white light on an individual caused the target to run for cover. If you held the light on the target, they would gaze into the light much like a deer in the headlights of a car for a few moments, enabling the sniper to engage with plenty of time to spare. A SWAT sniper from a Texas department told me "Now, with the Surefire weapons light I can be used more successfully on nighttime and low-light callouts and my commander will have more trust in my shooting abilities during times of darkness."

Obviously, you need to evaluate your situation and number of enemy in the vicinity before you turn on the white light, or as the Surefire people call it, the bullet magnet. It is another tool to add to the tool kit, and a great way to engage targets in low-light situations, as well as an alternative to

*Spotter calls shots for men on the firing line. Many drills call for similar cooperation and coordination by sniping team members. South Texas terrain (below) provides optimum venue for long-range precision shooting.*



night-vision equipment that can cost up to \$15,000.00.

Speaking of night vision, Travis brought out some night-vision devices or NVDs for the students to try out. The purpose of this was to allow the shooters who are not familiar with night vision to get a taste of it. DIOP (Diversified Optical Products) manufactures the system that was available for us to evaluate. The NADS (Night Augmented Day Sight) has a proven track record of being reliable, accurate, and tremendously hardy on such military systems as the M4 carbine, the Army's M24 sniper rifle, the SR25, as well as the .300 WinMag systems. The night-vision devices are designed as a clip-on system over the regular day scope, allowing the day scope to be utilized during periods of extremely



low light. The engineers at DIOP exceeded their goals of enhanced resolution, increased light transmission and range, and bore-sight retention. The NADS system, once dialed in, also holds zero, allowing the operator to disengage it during the day and carry it in his rucksack without the worry and hassle of shift-of-bullet-impact. This whole system was mounted to a D&L Sports rifle built by Dave Lauck, of Gillette, Wyoming.

### **"The Way Is In Training" (Miyamoto Musashi)**

The course was outstanding, especially for the law-enforcement shooters, many of whom had not before engaged targets past the 200-yard line. We were able to get data on our rifles every 50 yards, back to the 700-yard line, providing an invaluable amount of information to the shooter, in regards to not only their own capabilities but also the weapon's. After shooting a five-round string of fire, we would all go down to the target and check our groups, jotting any corrections in our data books. We would then meet back at the same yardline, adjust our scopes, and refire a five-round group.

Many of the shooters used Ballisticards, a credit-card-sized cheat sheet of sorts that is calibrated for specific loads and barrel lengths, which gives the shooter his recommended dope change for each yard line. Nothing beats good hard data: However, the people at Ballisticards were almost dead-on at every yard line. Once we felt confident that we were on target, Rory and Travis would move down the line, calling out different steel targets in rapid succession, which we would engage. We were rewarded with the magical ding of a 175-grain .308 round impacting steel, confirming our zeros at each yardline.

The steel targets that the SureFire instructors used were the best I have seen. They were supplied by MGM (Mike Gibson Manufacturing), of Boise, Idaho. MGM manufactures every type of steel target imaginable, as well as live-fire shooting houses. Travis Mitchell stated that "MGM offers the best customer service that I have ever come across and there are few individuals more honest and trustworthy than Mike Gibson." He then went on to add, "If it weren't for Mike Gibson, the SureFire sniper course wouldn't have been as successful as it was."

Most police snipers do not train or have data beyond the 200-yard line because a few years ago the FBI announced a statistic that the average police marksmen will take shots at 70

yards and rarely, if ever, has to engage beyond 100. However, what happens *the one time* in their careers that they have to engage a suspect beyond the 200-yard line? I for one do not want to be the officer that is asked to take the shot, and either has to deny the request because of lack of training, or tries to dial his scope in using some fangled voodoo math, shooting on a wing and a prayer. This is why we train for worst-case scenario, that one-percent of our lifetime encounters.

Many shooters found, once they had reached the 600-yard line, that their scopes had run out of both windage and elevation. Although extremely frustrating and somewhat embarrassing, at

gets, usually around 0650, we began to shoot. We started each day at the 100-yard line to confirm zero, take a cold-bore shot, and make any adjustments to the scope. As we moved back yardline by yardline, the heat, humidity, and wind picked up which, in my opinion, made for an outstanding day of learning and shooting. At noon, or shortly thereafter, we would stop for the day, allowing us time for weapons maintenance, extra help, and the all-important siesta.

We met back in the classroom every evening at 1800 for a short period of instruction on such topics as ballistics, to milradian theory and shot-placement, and then it was back out to the



*Manufacturers' reps took opportunity to show their wares at SureFire school. FN's hybrid P-90 personal defense weapon proved a popular tool to try.*

least they discovered the limitations of their equipment on the range and not on a real-world mission. Hopefully, their departments will allow them to fix the problem, which would have been avoided in the first place had the departments done their research properly, and built the rifles correctly from the onset.

At mid morning, wind began to kick up, and the further back from the targets we got the more you had to compensate for the wind. This was great practice and served as a perfect learning tool. The instructors showed us myriad ways to read and adjust for the wind, from the age-old clock method, to becoming familiar with what the parallax in your scope is trying to tell you about the conditions.

The day started just before sunup. As soon as we could make out our tar-

100-yard line to confirm zero and cold-bore shots. The instructors would break the class in half, each taking a group of students, and we would run drills and scenarios, such as the one described in the introduction.

On one occasion, an older student made a smartass remark as to whether or not we would be "thrashed" or made to sprint between drills. The instructor's ears perked up as they confirmed his worst fear. Rory had us start at the 300-yard line, identify a target, and engage it. We would then pick up our rifles and equipment as we sprinted to the 250, 200, 150 and finally the 100-yard line where we followed the same pattern. The whole time Rory was yelling and screaming, doing his best to imitate a Marine drill instructor. Even though we were under duress and



breathing harder than normal, we were expected to make the same shots, ensuring not to kill the hostage on the target, only the terrorist. Did I mention that this was done in low light where we were forced to use our SureFire lights in order to identify the target? Of course, it being my first time, I managed the worst score, killing 3 out of 5 hostages. What an outstanding drill! I hope to conduct them on my own in order to get better at shooting under duress. Hopefully, in the future not so many hostages will be killed by my rounds!

Rory McGahan invited two industry reps to come out to the course and allowed the students to fire their weapon systems. Al Barr of SigArms arrived the third day with two weapons systems. Al was an absolute pleasure to be around as well as a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience from his days with the USMC and the famed FBI HRT. If you ever get the opportunity to be in Al's presence, shut your mouth and open your ears and you will walk away a better man for it. The Sig-Sauer Blaser features a bolt that can be switched out for either right- or left-handed shooters without machining. Instead of throwing the bolt up and back like on a Remington, the Sig's bolt is manipulated by pulling it straight back, which allows for a very fast follow up shot. Fred Laughlin from FN came out also, bringing along one of their proven bolt-guns as well as the famed P-90 submachine gun chambered in FN's unique 5.7mm round, a mix between a rifle and a pistol cartridge, which all of the shooters enjoyed tremendously.

By the fourth day of the course, Rory and Travis had most of us hitting 6-inch-tall by 2-inch-wide steel gopher targets at the 700-yard line, which is quite a testament to their instruction.

The second-to-last event of the course was the Steel Challenge. The instructors set MGM steel targets of various heights and widths at a choice of unknown distances, and the students shot against each other. The winners advanced to the next round. The losers were eliminated. Eventually, only one shooter remained, a dead-eye-accurate police sniper from California. SureFire generously awarded him a M4 Devastator weapon light with a tape switch as his prize, a retail value of \$460, the same tactical illumination system that he had been training on all week.

The most sobering thing that we did occurred at the end of the five-day course. All of the police snipers, after



*It ain't over until the fat lady with the Uzi sings. Shooting through glass adds further dimension of realism to training scenario where the hostage must be spared. (below) Realistic juxtaposition of hostage to bad guy tests marksmanship skills. Shooter did well — note bad guy is missing an eye.*



cleaning their weapons, met back at our old friend the 100-yard line. There, the quiet professionals confirmed their zero in the event that they received a callout either on their way home, or shortly afterwards. This slammed home to all of us the real reason that we were at the course; not for the adrenalin or bragging rights, not for the umpteenth graduation certificate to hang on the wall, but because most of us attending are in the business of protecting the sheep from the wolves that prey at night.

#### Know The Terrain

The facilities were built specifically for the SureFire sniper courses by Bob Strobo, the host and owner of a 2,000-acre ranch, South Texas Outdoor Adventures, located an hour west of San Antonio. Bob built a bunkhouse with air conditioning, satellite TV, a full kitchen and running water for the students. Mimi, Bob's partner in crime,

cooked dinner a couple of nights in a row. I have never in my life had such good fajitas. Bob and Mimi's hospitality is above and beyond the call of duty.

Bob also built the range and steel-target holders. Currently, the range reaches out to 700 yards. However, in the near future, shooting beyond 1,000 yards will not be a problem. The ranch also features a second 200-yard range, where we conducted our scenarios with the bank robbers. If long-range shooting is not your cup of tea, there is a 360-degree skeet and trap range with a high and low house, as well as hunting opportunities.

Bob guides white tail deer, turkey, dove, and wild pig hunts on his ranch for groups of up to 17 hunters including food, lodging, and field transportation for a very reasonable fee. If you would like to hone your hunting skills into that of master woodsmen, Bob can help you there, as well. The ranch is also available for machine-gun shoots. I highly recommend all of it. When you are finished with a long day of shooting or hunting, Bob has an air-conditioned weapons-cleaning room with a solvent tank and air hose, as well as numerous weapons-cleaning stations.

Travis Mitchell hopes to run more SureFire Progressive Lowlight sniper courses at Bob Strobo's ranch in the near future. I strongly recommend the course for any law-enforcement or military shooter. Thus far, this is the best long-range sniping course that I have attended. We shot more than 1,000 well-placed rounds over the course of five days. Every shooter who attended noted to the instructors how much they had improved and learned. One sniper from California attended because he had taken a class from Travis Mitchell two years prior. When his Captain asked him why he had to attend a course in the middle of Texas he said, "Because, sir, Travis is the best damned sniper instructor that I have ever come across." He managed to convince his Captain to allow his partner to go as well. You are doing yourself and your department a serious disservice by not attending one of these courses taught by Rory McGahan and Travis Mitchell. The course is worth the money — which I'd pay for Bob's hospitality and Mimi's cooking alone!

For course information call Travis Mitchell at (714) 393 8700; or in care of SureFire at (800) 828 8809.

*Odin Crowe is a frequent contributor to SOF.*







# Springfield Armory's New M1 Garand

TEXT & PHOTOS BY  
GARY PAUL JOHNSTON



*(opposite) Springfield Armory's new M1 Garand is identical to its original World War II and Korean War counterparts and is of top-quality throughout. (below) Not made during "hurry-up" wartime production, Springfield Armory's M1 Garand has much cleaner lines, and is MilSpec from muzzle to butt.*

**A**lthough more than 60 years old, the Garand is still "one of the best battle implements ever!"

After it became obvious that a semi-automatic main battle rifle (MBR) would be far superior to the bolt-action rifles used during the Great World War, Canadian-born John C. Garand set about to design one for the U.S. Army. After 20 years in development and a number of changes to its basic design, Garand's rifle was adopted by the Military in 1936 as the U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30 M1.

Standard-issue from the onset of World War II through the Korean War and into the early 1960s, a total of 4,040,000 M1 Garand rifles were produced during WWII by the great Springfield Armory and Winchester Repeating Arms, with an additional 600,000 produced by Springfield, International Harvester and Harrington

& Richardson after the war.

A semi-automatic rifle, the M1 Garand is gas-operated by a long-stroke piston and its breech is locked by a rotating bolt with two opposed front locking-lugs. Designed around a rigid full-length, machined-steel receiver, the Garand is extremely robust, reliable, and accurate. It is also quite simple to use and maintain.

A clip-fed rifle, the Garand is a departure from almost all other semi-automatic rifles. To clarify and properly define a few much misused terms, an *en bloc clip* is neither a magazine, nor a charger ("stripper clip," used only to load a fixed or detachable magazine); but is a metal container holding the cartridges, which is inserted into the magazine. The clip remains in the magazine and holds and controls the cartridges throughout the feeding cycle. In most designs, at the end of the firing cycle, the clip is ejected





through the bottom of the magazine or out the top as with the M1 Garand. Similar clips were used in Steyr-Mannlicher, Moisen-Nagant, Carcano, and Mannlicher-Berthier bolt-action rifles, plus the American .276 Pedersen and experimental WW II Italian semi-automatic rifles, to name a few.

In the case of the Garand, the en bloc clip holds eight .30-06-caliber cartridges also known as the .30 M2, or 7.62x63mm. Since most other rifle clips of the era held no more than five rounds in single column, the Garand's eight-shot capacity mandated the use of a double-column clip, and this made the rifle slightly wider. Consequently, in order to keep debris from entering the action, the bolt had to be designed with extended sides, or wings, in order to close and protect the action and magazine from dirt.

With the cocking handle/operating rod being integral with the gas piston, the cocking handle portion houses an internal cam slot that serves to unlock and lock the bolt as the operating rod assembly moves to the rear and forward again. The end of the right locking lug extends outward and rides in the cam slot in the operating rod. Machined with angles that correspond with those in the operating rod cam block, this extension rotates up to unlock as the operating rod travels to the rear, and down to lock as it goes forward into battery.

Manufactured of high-tensile carbon

steel, the M1 Garand has a piston head and gas cylinder made of stainless steel to prevent corrosion. This was especially important during World War II and Korea when issue-ammunition used corrosive primers. The Garand is blessed with a robust and finely adjustable rear sight. The M1 Garand was Parkerized to military specifications and was fitted in a hardwood stock of walnut or birch.

Being quite original, the safety of the M1 Garand is located in the center-front of the trigger guard, and is logical and ergonomic. Pulling the safety to the rear means "bullets stay to the rear." In the Garand, the safety actually cams the hammer totally out of engagement with the sear. When pushed to its forward position, the safety signifies that

bullets can go forward — an easy and logical arrangement easy to remember by virtually anyone. This successful safety has been adapted to subsequent U.S. military and civilian designs, and foreign military rifles such as the Czech Vz 52 "SHE."

On the left side of the M1 Garand's receiver is a squarish clip release button. When the Garand is loaded with any number of cartridges remaining in the clip (and magazine), pulling the cocking handle to the rear and depressing the clip release button will cause the clip and any remaining rounds to be ejected out the top of the rifle.

With its two-stage military trigger and streamlined, ergonomic design, the M1 Garand was an instant success throughout the U.S. Military. While a few improvements were made to the rifle during WWII, the Garand not only performed nearly perfectly, but also was the first semi-automatic shoulder arm to be successfully used by any army.

Having joined the fraternity of firearms that seemingly will never die, the Garand is easily as popular today as it was during WW II, if not more so. So in demand is the M1 Garand that hundreds thousands of well-used, tired components from these rifles are constantly being recycled into serviceable rifles for sale to both collectors and shooters. While these reconditioned M1's are usually very serviceable, many are at least a little long in the tooth.

The increasing shortage of high-quality M1 Garands has encouraged Springfield Armory, Inc., to reintroduce its brand-new M1 (Garand) Rifle, Cal. 30. Using its advanced technology, Springfield Armory has made a new M1 Garand receiver that is, by all accounts, better than the original. With tolerances held right to original MilSpec, this new Garand is neither too loose nor too tight, but its tolerances are held to perfection. I have just finished testing Springfield Armory M1 Garand, serial #25.

Being the proud owner of eight M1 Garand rifles over the years (three of them National Match), I'm very impressed with this new Springfield. Made with a new receiver, barrel and stock, this rifle otherwise appears to be assembled from original like-new GI parts. Its action is crisp and its two-stage trigger lets off at about 4.5 pounds. All functions were as with any original M1 Garand rifle.

Although the new Springfield M1 Garand is just like the real thing, its lines are even cleaner than the "hurry up" rifles cranked out for war. To pre-



*(below) Just like the original, the new Springfield Armory M1 Garand accepts the original bayonet. (right) To prevent the possibility of counterfeiting its famous recreation, Springfield started the serial number of its Garand at 710,000, and used a stamp different from the original.*





## Springfield Armory's New M1 Garand

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Caliber:</b>	.30-06 Springfield (.30 M2, or 7.62x63mm)
<b>Velocity:</b>	2,800 fps
<b>Barrel Length:</b>	24 inches, 6 grooves
<b>Overall Length:</b>	43.6 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	9.5 pounds
<b>Feed Device:</b>	8-round en bloc clip.
<b>Safety:</b>	Positive.
<b>Sights:</b>	(front) Protected square blade. (rear) Peep aperture adjustable for windage & elevation.
<b>Stock Furniture:</b>	American walnut
<b>Finish:</b>	MilSpec Parkerized
<b>Price:</b>	\$1,065.00 (suggested retail)



*The M1 Garand uses an eight-shot en bloc clip loaded through the top. Robert Bruce's book, *The M-1 Does My Talking*, will tell you almost everything you want to know about the Garand, and is filled with photos.*

vent these rifles being sold as original, Springfield has slightly changed the size and shape of the letters in the nomenclature on the top rear of the receiver. Another telltale clue that this is not an original issue Garand is that it comes with a six-groove barrel rather than a four-groove barrel like the originals.

### Disassembly

Fieldstripping the new Springfield Armory M1 Garand proved to be exactly like any other: After pulling back the operating handle and checking to make sure the chamber is empty, allow the operating rod and bolt to go forward, but leave the hammer cocked. Now pull down on the rear of the trigger guard until it unlatches and swings downward from the rear. Then pull the entire trigger guard free of the stock.

Remove the stock from the rifle by turning it upside down and slapping the butt away from the receiver. With the barreled action removed from the stock, disconnect the rear of the follower rod (recoil spring guide) from the magazine follower arm, and remove the rod and recoil spring from the rear of

the operating rod.

With the point of a bullet, or similar tool, push out the follower arm pin and pull it clear of the rifle with the fingers. Now remove the bullet guide, follower arm and operating rod catch from the action. Then remove the follower and slide from the bottom of the receiver.

Pull back the operating rod and bolt until the rod lines up with the disassembly notch on the right side of the receiver. Now pull outward on the cocking handle, jiggling it until freed. Then rotate and remove the operating rod from the rifle. Pull upward on the extended cam of the bolt's right locking lug and move the bolt forward until it can be rotated counter-clockwise and free of the receiver. No further disassembly is necessary for cleaning and maintenance, when shooting non-corrosive ammo. Reassembly is in reverse order.

### Shots Fired

In testing my sample Springfield Armory M1 Garand, I used U.S. GI .30 M2 150-gr. ball and Federal 168-gr. Gold Metal Match .30-06 ammunition; both loaded in GI eight-round clips.



*Identical to the original, fieldstripping Springfield's new M1 is accomplished as shown, without the need of any tool except the point of a bullet.*

First and foremost, it must be mentioned that the rifle *never* malfunctioned. All operations were as one would expect from this rifle, including the "ping" of the empty steel clip as it is ejected vertically from the magazine along with the last empty case.

During the Korean War, this characteristic "ping" became a signal for the enemy to charge. Even though inserting a fresh eight-round clip took only a couple of seconds; a second can mean life or death in combat. As the story goes, some groups of GIs would make sure their M1s were fully loaded. Then, on command, they would fire one round in the direction of the enemy while tossing an empty steel Garand clip up in the air. When the enemy heard the "ping" of the empty clip hitting a rock, they charged only to be mowed down by the seven rounds remaining in all the waiting Garands.

In the accuracy department, Springfield's new M1 Garand proved itself just as did the first Garands in combat. While this model comes with a "service"-grade barrel, my sample rifle proved quite accurate. Federal's Gold Medal Match .30-06 wiped away the GI National Match ammunition in terms of accuracy, bringing home three-shot groups of between 2- and 3-minutes of angle (MOA) from the bench at 100 yards. Not only was this accuracy due to the general quality of the ammunition, but also to the fact that barrels with six grooves shoot 168-grain commercial match ammunition better than do GI National Match four-groove barrels. U.S. .30 M2 GI ball produced 100-yard accuracy of about 4 MOA. This is still within GI National Match specifications.

My late stepfather, John J. Mitchell,

*Continued on page 79*



resulted in previous congressional support such as a squadron of eight Black Hawk helicopters for the beleaguered police force.

His backroom sponsorship of Gen. Serrano's efforts by the DEA actually circumvented the Clinton Administration and proved to be a very effective method of supporting our allies in the war on drugs. Gen. Serrano has readily conceded that he wouldn't have been as successful as he was, in shutting down the Cartels without the help from the D.E.A. and his friends in the U.S. Congress. He never mentioned the Clinton White House.

### **While Nobody Was Looking**

As current attention has been firmly fixed on the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Philippines in our war on terrorism, this raging conflict in Colombia has continued to slowly bleed. "The Colombians are seeing their country implode," commented Colonel Robert W. Johnson, USMC (Ret.), a highly decorated SpecOps expert with long experience in Latin America. Col. Johnson had a secret role in garnering Congressional support for new helicopters for Gen. Serrano in 1996. He succeeded in getting bipartisan support when the Clinton White House and then-U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette, were stalling the effort.

"As the so-called intellectuals in Washington, D.C. mull over the matter, front-line drug fighters are dying," says Col. Johnson. Colombian anti-drug cops are still awaiting critically needed assistance. Congressman Barr is no fan of the slow-moving bureaucratic process. "The fact is: The State Department is sitting on its hands," declares a Military officer in Bogota.

In Colombia, there is supposed to be this massive aerial eradication program. Today, most of the spray aircraft are grounded because of poor maintenance and lack of spare parts. The eight new spray aircraft, promised by Rand Beers last year, have yet to be delivered.

"The situation in Colombia is a disaster," asserts Colonel Johnson.

Pastrana, with State Department encouragement, even granted the FARC a safe haven the size of Switzerland in 1998. From that base, FARC trained and equipped its troops and launched hundreds of attacks on the government. Johnson asserted that, "The Pastrana

Administration and these so-called 'smart folks' at State Department were either oblivious or incompetent. And today; it's getting much worse."

### **Creative Fiction?**

"The current situation that is tearing Colombia apart and is threatening the entire region, is fueled by massive drug-trafficking and it was ignored by the Clinton Administration for the past eight years," declares Congressman Barr. With the implosion of the Venezuelan government and the repeated questions of drug- and arms-trafficking being focused on President Hugo Chavez's government, there are plenty of problems coming to light in the Nexus. A retired intelligence expert revealed that they had been issuing warnings to the U.S. Embassy for over eight years now, with little effect.

The creative fiction that we were fed by the Clinton White House and their State Department diplomats has been a big part of the problem.

"Hopefully, the change of direction and foresight under the Bush team will finally get some positive traction," states Maj. Messing.

### **In Our National Interest**

In February, President Bush announced that "20,000 Americans die each year from illegal drugs," 90% of which originate in Colombia. In the past decade, over 46,000 people, mostly innocent civilians, have been killed in Colombia's narco-fueled civil war and 2 1/2 million people have been internally displaced. However, the forgotten fact is that 12 American citizens have been murdered by narcoterrorists, as Robert Novak reported.

It now seems that the U.S. State Department has a "buffet policy" where they can pick and choose just what they consider "terrorism". This irresponsible policy has led us to this critical point in the history of U.S.-Colombia relations. President George W. Bush declared that, "Any terrorist who attacks an American citizen, is attacking America!" Evidently, our State Department officials, such as Ambassador Patterson and Rand Beers, haven't gotten the message. Beers, also a Clinton-era political appointee, has been in charge of counternarcotics assistance. (*The same assistance that isn't accounted for today.*) He spends the taxpayer's money overseas, much of it mismanaged and ineffective as evidenced by the chaos in the U.S. Embassy in Bogota.

"Congressman Barr has been like a pit bull on a big bone, concerning Colombia, drugs and terrorism," says a retired D.E.A. Special Agent with years of field experience in the jungles and mountains of Colombia. He predicts that "Colombia will be falling apart unless it gets some real, sustained help." As the drug-fueled violence increases Congressman Barr knows that that the Andean region is at great risk.

Pentagon sources reveal an increased U.S. military presence, to include a large deployment of more Special Forces operators and some 600 Marines from the UNITAS deployment in August. "Something is brewing in Colombia," contends Col. Johnson. And it's not coffee.

So, if as Rep. Bob Barr contends, "Colombia is a wound that just won't stop bleeding," one wonders when democracy will finally be declared dead? Only time will tell. With U.S. involvement growing and with Alvaro Uribe as the new President, Colombia now stands on the threshold of a volcanic explosion of violence.

Congressman Barr has pushed for a Congressional hearing to re-examine the current situation in Colombia and how it can be refocused into meaningful and strategic action. Helping Colombia is in our national interest, but it must be done with professionalism and competency, not a half-hearted, "pick and choose" diplomacy that remains a hangover from the past Clinton White House.

We all remember Clinton's "victory" in Somalia.

*Special appreciation is extended to Jonathan Blyth and Brian Walsh of Rep. Bob Barr's personal office; and Mark Corallo of the House Government Reform Committee. Thanks also for investigative and historical data from Major Andy Messing, USAR (Special Forces) Ret., of the Washington, D.C.-based (N.D.C.F.) The National Defense Council Foundation (E-Mail: NDCF@erols.com), used in the preparation of this article.*

*Major Bruce H. "Doc" Norton, USMC (Ret.) is a "RECON" Marine. He is a nationally published military journalist and the author of Force Recon Diary 1969; Force Recon Diary 1970; Stingray; Sergeant Major: U.S. Marines; Grown Gray in War; One Tough Marine; and An Encyclopedia of American War Heroes. He serves on the staff of the Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. ✕*



## New M1 Garand

Continued from page 77

U.S.M.C., was issued an M1 Garand rifle during World War II, and although he never fired one after he went back into the U.S. Border Patrol following the war, he always spoke highly of that rifle. When I showed him my first M1 Garand rifle nearly four decades ago he smiled and said, "It was a hell of a rifle!" His original U.S.M.C. camouflage uniform is seen in the photos.



Johnston's stepfather, John J. Mitchell, U.S.M.C., with his M1 Garand rifle at Quantico, Virginia, during World War II. John said, "It was a hell of a rifle!"

My friend Robert Bruce has written a book on the Garand. Entitled *The M-1 Does My Talking*, the book is a picture history of the M1 Garand in the United States Military from WW II through Korea. If you're a Garand enthusiast, this book is a must! Contact Mr. Bruce at P.O. Box 482-M1, Sandston, VA 23150; phone: 804-746-9445.

After WWII, the Navy and Marine Corps converted a number of M1 Garands to 7.62x51mm NATO caliber (.308 Winchester). These rifles performed just as well as those in the original .30 M2 caliber. Will Springfield Armory offer its new M1 Garand in the NATO caliber? We'll just have to wait and see.

If you're a collector who wants to own a piece of history, or an enthusiast of this grand rifle who wants one to shoot for a lifetime of pleasure or competition, check out Springfield's new M1 Garand. For information, contact Springfield Armory, Inc., Dept. SOF, 420 West Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; phone: 800-680-6866. To keep your Springfield M1 Garand and the rest of your guns, join the NRA, and vote! ❧

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Continued from page 45

time together in Baghrum as their teams came in and out of operations.

The senior controller calls his companion "Gabe," while he goes by the name "Hots."

"That's what they call me because no one can pronounce my last name," Hotaling explained.

"Plus, it's cooler," Brown added with just a hint of sarcasm. Discussions weren't quite as light-hearted on 4 March. Hotaling knew his friend was in a pinch, but any worries were soon put to rest.

"The biggest thing you learn about situational awareness is when to step in and when not to step in," said Hotaling, who recently became the Air Force Reserve's only enlisted combat controller. "This was not my time to step in. He had everything under control and all I would have done is muddy the waters. My job was to stand back and let him do what he was doing well."

Hotaling could not see the helicopter because it had crashed just behind a ridgeline. He could see enemy troops — small in number at first — silhouetted in the snow as they



REUTERS/POOL/Jim Hollander

**United States Army soldiers from the "Misfits," the 2nd Platoon in the 10th Mountain Division, watch from a ridge as an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter lifts-off, 14 March 2002, after dropping off additional troops into the rocky battle area.**

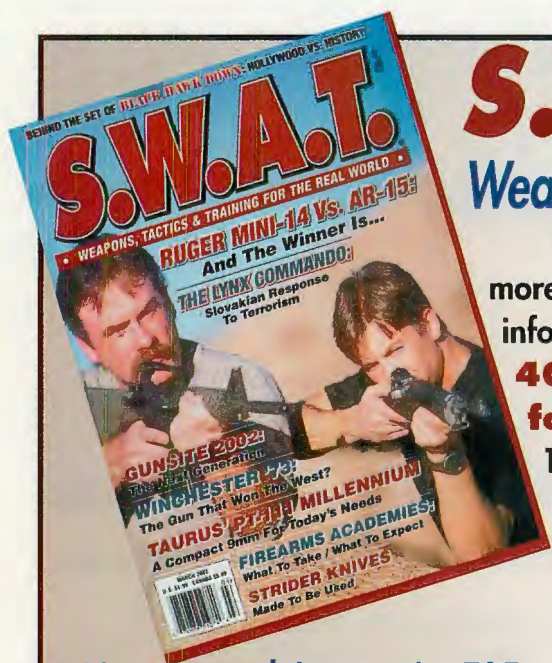
headed up the south and southwest sides of the mountain toward Razor 1's position.

It certainly was "go-time."

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*Lance Bacon, a former Marine with service during Desert Storm, is now Editor of Air Force Times. ✕*



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Continued from page 69

**Epilogue**

When the bomb went off, Weldon Kennedy left the JTF-6 Command Center and returned to Phoenix. Later, he flew to Oklahoma City. Kennedy was appointed by FBI Director Louis Freeh to head the OKBOMB investigation. In that position Kennedy answered directly to Larry Potts. Kennedy's immediate subordinates were Bob Ricks and Danny Coulson. With the exception of Freeh, each man's tenure was to be short.

Kennedy lasted a month as head of the OKBOMB investigation. A few weeks later, Bob Ricks announced his retirement. That summer, Coulson and Potts took paid leaves from the FBI — both were under criminal investigation for the cover-up at Ruby Ridge. Two years later, they were cleared and allowed to retire with full benefits.

In August 1997, Carol Howe was charged with weapons violations. It turns out the government's evidence was a section of pipe and some cannon fuse ATF records reveal she was told to obtain as part of their investigation at Elohim City. Equally bizarre — the jury learned it was Howe's ATF "handler's" husband — an FBI agent — who participated in the raid on the home where the questionable evidence was seized. Ms. Howe was acquitted and now lives in seclusion, with a new identity.

The man who headed the OKBOMB investigation, Danny Defenbaugh, resigned recently, in disgrace, after a report critical of his performance was released by the DOJ's Office of Inspector General.

In 1996, Andreas Strassmeir crossed the Mexican border and fled to Europe with the aid of former Special Forces operator David Hollaway. Next, Strassmeir surfaced in Dublin, where he shared an apartment with young men associated with *Sinn Fein*. Strassmeir later returned to Germany.

Elohim City leader, Robert Millar, suffered a heart attack and died on 28 May 2001. On 11 June 2001, McVeigh was executed in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Terry Nichols faces a similar fate in Oklahoma. Charges are pending on 160 first-degree murder counts.

Two members of Langan's ARA bank robbery cell — both implicated in the bombing by eyewitnesses — were recently released from prison. Their leader, Mark Thomas, is scheduled to be back on the streets on 19 January 2004. ✂

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# Sound Off

BY COL. DAVID H. HACKWORTH (RET.)

## Learning From The Past

The three guerrillas were chowing down, with their loaded AK-47 sub-machine guns leaning against a wall within arm's reach. Lt. Patrick Graves of the famed 101st Airborne Division and a squad of his paratroopers were nearby in a camouflaged position well within grenade-throwing range.

Patrol leader Graves wanted to take the men out, but there was one small problem: The commanding general's Rules of Engagement forbade Graves' triggering the ambush unless the enemy pointed their weapons at him and his soldiers.

Graves' tough, combat-savvy platoon sergeant felt his leader's frustration and bolted forward toward the guerrillas, who immediately went for their weapons. But before they could get off a round, the sergeant had dispatched them. This isn't a recent war story from Afghanistan. It occurred 37 years ago in the jungle just outside of Anh Khe, South Vietnam. The scary thing is that the same insane Rules of Engagement apply today to a new generation of 101st troopers slowly sinking into another guerrilla-infested quagmire. Some things never change.

The 101st Airborne Division's Lt. Quinn Eddy went through a similar scenario in May near Khushai Lalmi Ghar, Afghanistan, except that the three armed men escaped. And when his lightly equipped opponent scooted, Eddy's troopers were too loaded down with gear to give effective chase.

Like the Viet commanders in the 1960s, this century's Taliban and al-Qaeda leadership know they can't slug it out toe-to-toe with our superior firepower, greater mobility and superior technology. They also know that if they did, they'd lose every fight. So they've adopted classic guerrilla hit-and-run ops as their war strategy. Their objective is to make our troops bleed — to wear them down, just as they did with another superpower, the Soviet Union; and just as Hanoi did with us.

Our generals must get their act together and realize that the war in Afghanistan has morphed into a classic counter-guerrilla conflict and that all the bombers, helicopters and sophisticated technology the Pentagon can provide won't win this type of fight. Small engagements, like those in Afghanistan or the Philippines, where we're also dropping the ball, won't be won by big-war tactics and modern Army micromanagement.

To win, we must fight smart and recognize that the terrorists won't be foolish enough to fight a big-battle war.



Instead, they'll continue employing the ambush they used so effectively in Afghanistan Op Anaconda — which, incidentally, killed seven Special Warfare fighters when our high-tech stuff missed the enemy's "hide" locations — along with mines and booby traps, snipers and the sort of stand-off attacks they now frequently use to pepper our units with mortars and missiles from a safe distance. It's time to dust off the lessons learned from Vietnam.

In 1966, after a tour with the 101st in which I had the privilege of leading Pat Graves and another 800 gallant "above the rest" soldiers, I was assigned to the Pentagon, where I quickly seized the opportunity to tell Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson: "We're losing the war." While informing a four-star general that his game plan stunk wasn't exactly the most clever career move for a junior officer, HKJ was a real combat-infantry soldier with several wars under his pistol belt who knew the dying game well enough to listen.

After hearing me out, he immediately sent me back to Vietnam with historian Sam Marshall to interview soldiers from every Army combat unit fighting there. We gathered almost a million-word body of data proving irrefutably that the World War II tactics used by Gen. William Westmoreland and his generals were catastrophic, and that we were losing the war. Our database was condensed into a brief handbook called the *Vietnam Primer*, which became mandatory reading for all small-unit leaders. Graves said, "It sure kept a lot of my men alive on my second tour with the 101st — except when those idiots in charge had us storm Hamburger Hill."

My new book, *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*, shows the primer's lessons learned applied to a battalion I had the privilege of skipping in Vietnam in 1969. Like the primer, it tells how to win against a guerrilla foe — if our generals will only read it. I've offered them free copies, and so far have had but one taker.

<http://www.hackworth.com> is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

Send mail to P.O. Box 11179, Greenwich, CT 06831.

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Look for Hack's new book, *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*, published by Rugged Land LLC, New York City. ✉



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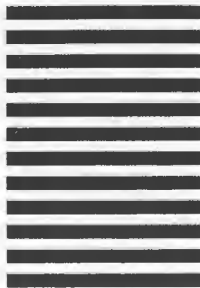
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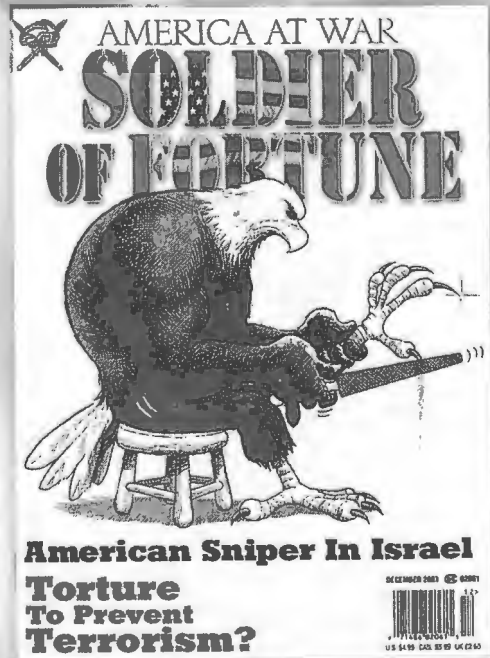
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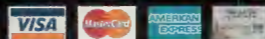
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